



Authorities order 100,000 evacuated in California wildfire

By STEFANIE DAZIO and JOHN ANTCZAK

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A wildfire raged out of control along the northern edge of Los Angeles early Friday, forcing tens of thousands of people from their homes as firefighters battled flames from the air and on the ground.

Police Chief Michel Moore said about 100,000 people in over 20,000 homes were ordered to evacuate.

Fire Chief Ralph Terrazas said the fire had grown to more than 7 square miles (18 square kilometers) and at least 25 homes had been damaged. A middle-aged man who was near the fire went into cardiac arrest and died, the chief said, but he did not have details. A death was also confirmed at an earlier wildfire east of Los Angeles. The Los Angeles blaze erupted around 9 p.m. Thursday along the northern tier of the San Fernando Valley as powerful Santa Ana winds swept through Southern California. Smoke streamed across the city and out to sea.

Terrazas said there were sustained winds of 20-25 mph (32-40 kph) with gusts over 50 mph (80 kph) and relative humidity levels had fallen as low as 3%.



Jerry Rowe uses a garden hose to save his home on Beaufait Avenue from the Saddleridge fire in Granada Hills, Calif., Friday, Oct. 11, 2019.

Associated Press

"As you can imagine the embers from the wind have been traveling a significant distance which causes another fire to start," Terrazas said.

The fire erupted in Sylmar, the northernmost portion

of the valley, and spread westward at a rate of 800 acres (324 hectares) an hour into Granada Hills and Porter Ranch, where subdivisions crowd against the foothills of the Santa Susana Mountains. The cause

wasn't immediately known. Porter Ranch, an upper middle-class suburb that was the backdrop for the 1982 movie "E.T." is no stranger to evacuations. Four years ago, a blowout at an underground natu-

ral gas well operated by Southern California Gas Co. in the neighboring Aliso Canyon storage facility drove 8,000 families from their homes.

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Pentagon: U.S. not abandoning Kurds in face of Turkish attack

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top Pentagon officials on Friday denied the U.S. is abandoning its Syrian Kurdish allies in the face of a Turkish military offensive, although the future of a counterterrorism partnership with the Kurds was in grave doubt.

"We have not abandoned the Kurds. Let me be clear about that," Defense Secretary Mark Esper told reporters. "We have not abandoned them. Nobody green-lighted this operation by Turkey — just the opposite. We pushed back very hard at all levels for the Turks not to commence this operation."

Esper's remarks appeared aimed at strengthening the Trump administration's argument that it did all it could to stop the Turks and, failing that, was left with no reasonable option but to pull some U.S. troops away from the border. It's unclear how far the Turks will take their offensive, how badly the Kurds will be hit and whether U.S. forces will be compelled to withdraw entirely in coming days.

Many have called the lim-



In this Aug. 28, 2019, file photo, Secretary of Defense Mark Esper speaks to reporters during a briefing at the Pentagon.

ited U.S. pullback a grave mistake. Even some of President Donald Trump's staunchest Republican supporters have sharply criticized it as a decision that opened the door for the Turkish invasion. Some regard Trump's move as a betrayal of the U.S.-armed Kurdish fighters who have,

at great cost, partnered with American forces against the Islamic State group since 2015.

Esper told a Pentagon news conference that Washington is "greatly disappointed" by the Turkish incursion. He said it has badly damaged already frayed relations with Turkey, a NATO ally ousted from a Pentagon fighter program in July for refusing to drop its purchase of a Russian air defense system that is incompatible with NATO.

Esper insisted the Kurds remain a viable partner, although the U.S. has said it will not step between them and the Turks.

"To be clear, we are not abandoning our Kurdish partner forces, and U.S. troops remain with them in other parts of Syria. The impulsive action of President (Recep Tayyip) Erdogan to invade northern Syria has put the United States in a tough situation," Esper said. The Turkish incursion has complicated U.S. military efforts in the region, even as Washington seeks to deter Iran from further attacks on Saudi Arabia following a drone and cruise missile assault in September that damaged key Saudi oil facilities. Esper announced Friday that he was sending dozens more fighter jets and additional air defenses

to Saudi Arabia, beefing up efforts to defend against Iran.

At the White House, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin put Turkey on notice that it could face "powerful sanctions" for its military incursion, and that the U.S. will "shut down the Turkish economy" if Ankara goes too far.

Mnuchin said the U.S. hopes it will not have to use new, expanded sanctions authority that Trump has authorized. The administration threatened sanctions against Turkey earlier this year for its purchase of the Russian S-400 air defense system, but never followed through.

The Turkish invasion also has raised the prospect of losing control of thousands of captured Islamic State fighters who are in detention facilities under the Kurds' control.

Esper called on the Turks to halt their offensive, but he told reporters that he has no indication they will. He lamented "the dramatic harm" done to the two nations' relationship.

Speaking alongside Esper, Army Gen. Mark Milley said the U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish military known as the Syrian Democratic Forces, is still guarding camps holding IS prisoners. Milley, chairman of the

Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the Turkish military operations across the border into Syria are still "relatively limited."

He said the air and ground operations, including strikes by fighters and drones, have been carried out near two Syrian villages by about 1,000 members of the Turkish-backed Free Syrian Army and hundreds of Turkish commando forces. The distance they have penetrated into Syria ranges from a kilometer or two (about 1 mile) in one area to about 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) in another.

Milley emphasized that U.S. forces are still working with Kurdish forces. He said U.S. policy is to continue with a counter-IS campaign except in one area of the incursion, but the Kurds themselves said earlier this week that they suspended their counter-IS efforts.

Milley said leaders of the Kurdish force have told some of their fighters to move north to defend what they consider to be their territory. But he said the U.S. is "encouraging them to not overreact at this point and to try to tamp things down in order to allow some sort of diplomatic resolution."

Esper's remarks were the Pentagon's most explicit criticism of the Turkish operation, which began Wednesday as a campaign against the Syrian Kurdish-led militia that has partnered with U.S. forces over the past five years to fight the Islamic State.

Trump has called the invasion a "bad idea" and held out the possibility of the U.S. mediating a settlement.

A senior Turkish official in Washington suggested that the U.S. mediation offer would not be welcomed in Ankara due to Turkey's opposition to negotiating with terrorists. The official, who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said previous efforts to broker deals with the Kurds had failed because negotiating "will not change their basic motivation and will not change their tactics." □

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Continued from Front

In Northern California, the lights were back on Friday for more than half of the 2 million residents who lost electricity after the Pacific Gas and Electric Co. utility switched it off on Wednesday to prevent its equipment from sparking wildfires during dry, windy weather. PG&E restored the power after workers inspected power lines to make sure it was safe to do so. Officials had worried the winds might topple transmission lines and start wildfires. Helicopters made repeated water drops as crews in Los Angeles attacked flames in and around homes. Water- and retardant-dropping airplanes joined the battle after day-break. About 1,000 firefighters were on the lines.

Edwin Bernard, 73, said he and his wife were forced to leave their four cats behind as they fled their Sylmar home.

Bernard, standing outside the evacuation center at the Sylmar Recreation Center on Friday, said they were only able to grab their three dogs. During a previous wildfire, they'd had time to find their passports and photo albums, but not Thursday night.

"The fireman said, 'go, go, go!'" Bernard said. "It was a whole curtain of fire," he said. "There was fire on all sides. We had to leave."

Evacuations were also still in effect in the inland region east of Los Angeles where a fire erupted Thursday and raged through a mobile home park in the Calimesa area of Riverside County.

Seventy-four buildings were destroyed and 16 others were damaged.

Cal Fire spokeswoman Cathey Mattingly said Friday that one person was killed and others reported injuries, but she did not know the number or severity. The dead person was not immediately identified.

The missing included Don Turner's 89-year-old mother. Lois Arvickson called her son from her cellphone to say she was evacuating shortly after the blaze was reported in the small city of Calimesa, Turner said while with relatives at an evacuation center.

"She said she's getting her purse and she's getting out, and the line went dead," he said.



In this Sept. 12, 2019, file photo, cars pass Purdue Pharma headquarters in Stamford, Conn.

Associated Press

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Judge will halt lawsuits against Purdue Pharma, its owners

By GEOFF MULVIHILL

Associated Press

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) —

A judge is pushing for a settlement of more than 2,600 lawsuits facing OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma with a decision Friday to pause litigation against the company and members of the wealthy Sackler family that owns the company.

In a hearing Friday, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Roberts Drain contemplated stopping the suits for six months before ending up with a shorter injunction until Nov. 6 to allow the parties time to work out what would be needed to keep the litigation on hold so negotiations can continue.

Purdue filed for bankruptcy last month as part of a tentative settlement. But half the states and hundreds of local governments have refused to sign on, leading to uncertainty about the deal.

Twenty-five state governments asked the judge to let suits against Sackler family members move ahead. But the judge said that would wipe out the company's assets.

"A trial here will simply be an autopsy," Drain said.

The question of allowing suits to continue is not settled, but it got a boost Friday.

Just before the hearing, a committee of unsecured creditors that includes opioid crisis victims said it would support pausing the

lawsuits.

That deal came at a price. The company agreed it would put \$200 million into a fund in the next six months to pay for emergency relief of a crisis that has been linked to the deaths of more than 400,000 people in the U.S. since 2000.

The deal with the unsecured creditors also calls for the Sackler family members to provide financial information.

But the committee has not accepted the company's overall settlement offer.

"We hope to be getting things that will help us decide whether we support the settlement," the committee's lawyer, Arik Preis, said in court Friday.

Some of the lawsuits accuse Sackler family members of fraudulently transferring money from Purdue. Drain said states should try to resolve their suits through the negotiations in bankruptcy court because they could potentially get key Sackler information more quickly this way than through separate suits.

He also said that he can bind the parties to a deal to use any money in a settlement to deal with a crisis.

He noted that when states settled with tobacco companies in the late 1990s, they ended up putting the money toward other projects.

Drain said that lawyers should not assume that the settlement proposal Pur-

due made last month will be the final one. That offer includes handing over the entire company plus at least \$3 billion from Sackler relatives over seven years. In time, the proposed settlement could be worth up to \$12 billion over time.

Drain said there was another feature of it: Handing over control of the company to a trust that would contribute future profits to the settlement also means the trustees could make all the company documents public.

Some officials have been pushing for a way to examine fully the company's role in the opioid crisis.

But those benefits did not immediately sell all states on Drain's decision. In a statement, Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey said she would continue "advocating for accountability and justice."

After the hearing, Lauren Clinton, an assistant attorney general for the state of Washington, said, "we continue to believe what we said in court" about wanting to move ahead with a lawsuit against Purdue scheduled to be tried next year in state court.

For Purdue, though, the pause was a significant development.

"The Court's decision is an essential next step in preserving Purdue's assets for the ultimate benefit of the American public. The company will work tirelessly and collaboratively during this pause in the litigation to continue to build support for the settlement structure," the company said in a statement.

To work out a longer pause in suits against the company, lawyers said they would work out ways to monitor the company's activities and which parties could receive more Purdue and Sackler financial information.

While the judge said he would order the litigation pause, several states agreed voluntarily to adhere to its terms. □

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AP Explains: Columbus, once immigrant hero, now heel to some

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)

— The image and story of Christopher Columbus, the 15th century navigator who began European incursions into the Americas, have changed in the U.S. over the decades. Columbus was an obscure figure until his adventures were revitalized in the 1800s. By the 1990s, a new generation of Native American activists blamed the navigator for launching centuries of indigenous genocide. With Columbus Day falling on Monday in the U.S. — and now being called Indigenous Peoples' Day in some states — here's a look at how views of Christopher Columbus have changed over the years:

THE MAN

Born in the Republic of Genoa (now Italy), Columbus took part in several voyages in the Aegean and Mediterranean seas as a teenager and later participated in expeditions to Africa. Like Aristotle and others, Columbus believed that the world was round. He theorized that the dis-

tance between Spain's Canary Islands and Japan was only around 2,300 miles (3,701 kilometers) and felt he could sail west to reach Asia for a new sought-out route for spices.

It was really about 12,000 miles (19,321 kilometers). Columbus based his incorrect calculations on mystical texts, and ended up landing in the present-day Caribbean on Oct. 12, 1492.

Columbus convinced Spain's Queen Isabella to fund his voyage by promising that the riches he'd collect would be used to finance a crusade to "reclaim" Jerusalem for Christians. Instead, he found new foods, animals and indigenous people who, he wrote, were childlike and could be easily turned into slaves.

As indigenous populations revolted against brutal Spanish treatment, Columbus ordered a ruthless crackdown that included having dismembered bodies being paraded in public. Eventually, Columbus was arrested on mismanagement and brutality charges and died a broken

man. Around 60 years after Columbus' arrival, the Taino indigenous population of the Caribbean had been reduced from an estimated 250,000 people to a few hundred because of slavery and death from new diseases.

RESURRECTION

Columbus remained a mostly unknown figure in the English-speaking world until Washington Irving released in 1828 his biographical account, "A History of the Life and Voyages of Christopher Columbus." The romanticized version became a best-seller in the United States and helped create the image of Columbus as a self-made man who overcame great odds. Thanks to the book, Columbus grew popular and Irving's myth played into the frontier spirit of U.S. westward expansion at the expense of Native American tribes living there. However, the book falsely claimed that it was Columbus who convinced Europeans of his time that the Earth wasn't flat. Others had made the same claim



This undated portrait attributed to Rodolfo Ghirlandaio shows Italian explorer Christopher Columbus.

Associated Press

before.

IMMIGRANT HERO

Beginning in the 1860s, Italian and Irish immigrants started celebrating Columbus in local parades. They claimed him as America's very first founding father and used his story to insert themselves into the U.S. narrative. From the mid-1800s to the early 1900s, Italian and Irish immigrants endured years of discrimination and exclusion from jobs and higher education. Still, some white nationalists attacked Columbus. In

1874, for example, Norwegian American scholar Rasmus Bjorn Anderson published "America Not Discovered By Columbus." Anderson argued that the Vikings were the first Europeans to set foot in the Americas, not Columbus. The Vikings, Anderson explained, were the pure white race and Christians who started the U.S. narrative, not someone like Columbus or southern Europeans.

Nonetheless, Italian Americans convinced local and state authorities to adopt Columbus Day holidays. □

White House to cut foreign policy staff by nearly half

By DEB RIECHMANN

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's new national security adviser plans to dramatically cut the White House foreign policy unit as it comes under scrutiny over a whistleblower's complaint that launched an impeachment inquiry by Congress. National security adviser Robert O'Brien said late Thursday that he wants to gradually eliminate about half of the 178 staff members of the National Security Council over the next 15 months.

O'Brien, who recently took over after national security adviser John Bolton was ousted by the president, portrayed the cuts as an effort to return to staffing

levels of the past.

He told NSC employees at a town hall meeting that the size of the staff grew to more than 200 under the Obama administration and that he wants to return it to the level it was under President George W. Bush and have about 100 people by the end of January. "It just ballooned into a massive, you know, bureaucracy ... under the last administration," he said in an interview later on the Fox Business Network program "Lou Dobbs Tonight."

Trump has also complained about the unidentified whistleblower and people in the NSC who apparently provided that person with information about a July 25 phone call he had with



National security adviser Robert O'Brien talks with reporters before boarding Air Force One with President Donald Trump at Los Angeles International Airport, Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

the Ukrainian president in which he pressed for an investigation of a political rival while his administration was delaying badly

needed military aid to the Eastern European nation. The complaint is now the central focus of the impeachment inquiry. □

A senior administration official said Friday that the cuts were not related to the leaks and that the NSC would reduce employees through attrition by not replacing people as they finish their assignments at the White House.

A former staffer said there are a few areas of NSC that could be trimmed, but that some current staff members already work 60 to 70 hours a week and they worry that the job of providing the president with national security policy options will diminish as the unit shrinks. The staffer spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the staff reductions announced at the closed-door town hall meeting. □

Study links Russian tweets to release of hacked emails

By TAMI ABDOLLAH

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russia's interference in the 2016 U.S. election has generally been seen as two separate, unrelated tracks: hacking Democratic emails and sending provocative tweets. But a new study suggests the tactics were likely intertwined.

On the eve of the release of hacked Clinton campaign emails, Russian-linked trolls retweeted messages from thousands of accounts on both extremes of the American ideological spectrum. Those retweets increased the odds selected Twitter users would be online and able to express outrage when the next day on Oct. 7, details such as the revelation that Clinton may have had early access to a primary debate question were released.

Those retweets also brought those lesser-known users a wider audience, encouraging them to tweet more, and ultimately helping polarize American public debate.

In the study, Clemson University professors Darren L. Linvill and Patrick L. Warren say messages were retweeted from some 4,000 accounts on Oct. 6, 2016, the day before WikiLeaks' release of hacked emails belonging to Hillary Clinton's campaign chair, John Podesta.

Through the retweets, Russian trolls amplified messages on the fringes of American politics. Twitter users, especially on the far left, responded negatively to revelations about Clinton, fulfilling Russia's attempt to boost Donald Trump's candidacy and add to the divisiveness in American politics.

Ultimately, those retweeted users gained a total of 500,000 new followers over the next four days, the study found. The increase in followers apparently prompted the Twitter users to tweet more. The report found that overall, they had sent 600,000 more tweets over those four days than they would have otherwise. The researchers



In this Nov. 1, 2017, file photo, Some of the Facebook and Instagram ads linked to a Russian effort to disrupt the American political process and stir up tensions around divisive social issues, released by members of the U.S. House Intelligence committee, are photographed in Washington.

Associated Press

based this figure on a comparison with similar Twitter accounts that had not had a retweet from a Russian troll during that period.

The research was supported by a Charles Koch Foundation grant.

The authors say the foundation and its conservative leader did not influence the findings, which are in line with other, bipartisan research on Russian meddling in elections.

In a statement, Twitter said, it is "committed to fostering free and open democratic debate around the globe. We've made significant progress since the 2016 U.S. election to address, mitigate, and prevent future attempts to undermine the integrity of online conversation regarding elections and the democratic process."

While the existence of a spike in Twitter activity on Oct. 6, 2016, has been known and the authors prior work was cited in Tuesday's release of a Senate Intelligence Committee report on Russia's use of social media during the election, exactly what those trolls were up to has not been previously detailed.

U.S. authorities have often pointed to Russia's use of fake and ideologically extreme Twitter accounts — or trolls — to spread disinformation. The Senate

report detailed a complex and highly effective campaign via the Russian government-affiliated troll farm, known as the Internet Research Agency, or IRA.

But the retweeting strategy has received less notice and may have a more lasting impact.

The retweeting marked a deliberate change in tactics. It remained in full force during the last month of the election, with the IRA, retweeting from an estimated 25,000 accounts and, in turn, making those users more active: They sent some 4 million tweets they otherwise would not have sent, according to the statistical analysis — and gained 3 million additional followers.

The 4 million retweets in one month greatly surpasses the total 2.8 million unique tweets sent by Russian trolls during the three-year campaign ending in 2017.

While Twitter ultimately suspended the fake accounts, roughly 90% of the more ideologically extreme

Twitter accounts that the Russians pushed to greater prominence remain active and contribute to the more polarized public debate today.

"Twitter can go and delete all the trolls, and what the trolls said, but this amplification effect is still there," Warren said. "It's like an infection. You can remove whoever was patient one in the infection, that's fine, but if the infection's already started, it's too late."

The report marks the culmination of two years of study by the professors, whose prior work of Russian troll activity has been picked up by national security agencies and the Senate Intelligence Committee.

The professors zeroed in on Oct. 6 because that's the day both left and right ideologically aligned trolls went from merely building their identities on the social media platform to suddenly using those personas to build up selected existing users, especially retweeting users on the far left.

Warren and Linvill call this a possible "new type of agenda setting" where a big part of the information operation conducted by the Russian government is changing the voices that are prominent in a political conversation and, indirectly, change the tenor of the conversation.

Sarah Mendelson, a professor of public policy who heads Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College in Washington, said the report fills in details on the Kremlin's strategy.

"There's even more cohesion to the IRA plan than we thought," said Mendelson, who has extensively studied Russian disinformation campaigns.

Mendelson noted that Oct. 7, is not only Vladimir Putin's birthday, but the day U.S. officials publicly stated that the Russian government was behind the election hacking that targeted Democrats, and the day the Washington Post published the Access Hollywood story and audio that included Trump making lewd comments about women.

While some have thought the WikiLeaks release of Podesta's hacked emails was timed to detract from the Access Hollywood story, the professors say the clear Russian strategy of retweets started the day prior indicates that it's more likely the timing of events was a happy coincidence.

The report found that the "left trolls" tended to target ideologically similar accounts that were also often part of the Black Lives Matter movement and used "black" in their description. "Right trolls" tended to retweet and reply to accounts that had account descriptors like "MAGA" and "Conservative." □



In this May 21, 2019 file photo, people rally in support of abortion rights at the Capitol in Sacramento, Calif.

California to require abortion medication at public colleges

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE and ADAM BEAM

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— California will be the first state to require abortion medication on college campuses under a law signed Friday by Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom.

The law takes effect in 2023 and only applies to the 34 campuses in the University of California and California State University systems. But the law will only be implemented if a state commission can raise more than \$10 million in private donations to pay for it.

Former California Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed a similar bill last year, arguing it was not necessary because abortion services were readily available off campus.

But Newsom, who took office in January, said the law is needed "as other states and the federal government go backward, restricting reproductive freedom."

Several Republican-led states, including Georgia, Kentucky and Mississippi, have passed laws banning abortions once a fetal heartbeat is detected. Abortion-rights groups are challenging those laws in court.

"Abortion is a protected right, and it is important that everyone — including college students — have access to that right, if they so choose," said Democrat

Sen. Connie Leyva, the bill's author.

Religious and anti-abortion groups opposed the bill, with Live Action President Lila Rose saying the law "turns universities into abortion centers." And Maria Jose Fernandez, legislative advocate for the California Catholic Conference, said the law is "trying to limit the alternatives for women." "We're giving them the option to terminate a life, but what about those who want to continue on with that pregnancy? Where is the help for those women?" Fernandez said.

The medication is an option for women who are less than 10 weeks pregnant. The process requires taking two pills. The first pill, taken at the clinics, blocks the hormone progesterone. The second, taken a few days later at home, has an effect similar to a miscarriage.

More than 400,000 women attend public universities in the state.

Officials at the University of California and California State University did not take a position on the bill as it worked its way through the state Legislature. California State University spokesman Michael Uhlenkamp said the university will comply with the law by 2023.

"The university is currently evaluating next steps and will implement the law accordingly," she said. □



Ronald Haskell leaves the court during a break in the punishment phase of his capital murder trial on Monday, Sept. 30, 2019, in Houston.

Associated Press

Man sentenced to death for Texas attack that killed 6

By JUAN A. LOZANO
Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — A man who prosecutors say was driven by vengeance when he fatally shot six members of his ex-wife's family in Texas, including four children, was on Friday sentenced to death.

Jurors sentenced Ronald Lee Haskell after deliberating for little more than four hours. The jury had to choose between life in prison without parole or a death sentence.

The same jury last month convicted Haskell of capital murder in the 2014 killings of Stephen and Katie Stay at their home in suburban Houston. The jury rejected his attorneys' efforts to have him found not guilty by reason of insanity. Haskell killed the couple and four of their children in the living room of their suburban Houston home in 2014. A fifth child, 15-year-old Cassidy Stay, was shot in the head but she survived by playing dead.

During closing arguments in the punishment phase of Haskell's trial earlier Friday, prosecutor Kaylynn Williford described the terrifying scene as Haskell fulfilled his plan to kill his ex-wife's family.

Williford described how Haskell shot 4-year-old Zach in the shoulder — an injury he could have survived — and said the frightened child scurried in the chaos to his father on a couch, burying his head in his father's shoulder for protection.

But by that point, Zach's father was already dead, Williford said.

"He scrambles over to his father, because that's what little boys do," Williford said. Haskell then went over to Zach, pointed a gun to the back of his head and pulled the trigger, she said. "How cold and vengeful do you have to be to take the life of a 4-year-old?" Williford said.

Cassidy Stay, now 20, was in court on Friday and cried when Williford detailed the killing of her family. At least one juror also wiped away tears. Stay testified at trial that she begged her uncle "please don't hurt us" before Haskell opened fire.

Defense attorneys argued hard for a life sentence.

Neal Davis III said the 39-year-old man should spend the rest of his life thinking about what he has done and "die in prison."

Doug Durham told jurors that at the heart of pros-

ecutors' arguments for a death sentence is "anger, hatred, fear, vengeance because of this terrible, terrible crime."

Durham said Haskell's long history of mental illness, in which he was treated by multiple doctors, should be considered by the jury as a mitigating factor in deciding that life in prison would be a more appropriate sentence. His attorneys said Haskell heard voices that told him to kill his ex-wife's family.

Durham urged jurors to consider "compassion and forgiveness" instead of "hate, anger" when making their decision.

But prosecutor Lauren Bard told jurors that Haskell's "issue is not his mental illness, his issue is his personality," describing him as a "manipulative, selfish, narcissistic, blame-shifting monster."

Prosecutors said Haskell had faked symptoms of mental illness and had meticulously crafted a plan to hurt anybody who helped his ex-wife, Melannie Lyon, after the couple divorced, traveling from California to Texas to carry out the killings. Prosecutors only needed to charge Haskell with two of the deaths to get to capital murder. □

At a glance: Key factors in a critical Polish election

By MONIKA SCISLOWSKA
VANESSA GERA

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Poles vote Sunday for 460 lawmakers in the lower house of parliament, the Sejm, and for 100 in the Senate, for four-year terms. It is considered by many to be the most momentous election in Poland since the Central European nation threw off communism 30 years ago.

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Supporters of the ruling conservative Law and Justice party, which is far ahead in the polls, see the vote as a chance to maintain generous monthly social benefits that have raised their living standards. They also approve of the way it has put a conservative mark on the nation at a time of liberalizing and secularizing influences from the West. Critics, however, say the party has carried out a relentless attack on the country's constitutional order. The most serious accusation centers on an overhaul of the justice system that has also been condemned by the European Union and human rights organizations. Critics also stress that the party uses public media to denigrate rivals, and has



In this photo taken Tuesday Oct. 8, 2019 a supporter of Poland's ruling right-wing party is holding a photo of one of the Law and Justice party's candidates at a convention in Warsaw, Poland.

Associated Press

employed rhetoric that repeatedly targeted minorities and liberals, depicting them as threats or as disloyal to the nation. Some fear the country's democracy will be irreparable damaged if the conservatives win another four-year mandate.

A STRONG LEADER

Law and Justice party leader Jaroslaw Kaczyn-

ski is Poland's most powerful politician even though he has no formal role in the government. Under his leadership, in 2015, the party won ruling majority power unprecedented in the post-communist era. First, the party's candidate, Andrzej Duda, who was hand-picked by Kaczynski, won the presidency. Then a few months later came the party's parliamentary victo-

ry. Duda has rarely vetoed laws passed by Law and Justice, and the party has gained control of the Constitutional Tribunal, which allows it to pass its laws with little fear of seeing them struck down. Kaczynski's dominance follows a period of personal tragedy: his identical twin brother President Lech Kaczynski died in a plane crash in Russia in 2010 along with 95 other

Poles, many of them state and military leaders from their conservative camp. The 70-year-old only wears black in public to this day in a sign of his continued mourning.

WHO WILL WIN?

Kaczynski's Law and Justice party, which leans right on social issues but has adopted a left-wing economic program of generous welfare spending, is far ahead of all other parties. Recent polls give it between 40 and 45%, with the second-strongest force, the centrist and pro-EU Civic Coalition, around 25%. An alliance of three left-wing parties has polled between 10 and 15%. The ultimate power arrangement will depend on whether Law and Justice obtains a majority of seats in the Sejm, or if it needs a coalition partner. The Civic Coalition and the leftwing alliance have been very critical of Law and Justice and are unlikely to be partners. If those two groups do better together than Law and Justice, a possible outcome could involve them teaming up to keep Kaczynski's party out of power — a prospect that seems unlikely but has energized liberal voters. □

Police arrest UK stabbing suspect on suspicion of terrorism

By DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A man wielding a large knife who allegedly lunged at shoppers and chased unarmed police in a northwestern England mall was arrested Friday on suspicion of terrorism.

Five people were hurt, three of whom needed hospital treatment for stab wounds, and the 41-year-old suspect was detained. Police do not believe anyone else was involved in the attack at the Arndale Centre in Manchester.

"We do not know the motivation for this terrible attack," Greater Manchester Police Assistant Chief Constable Russ Jackson said. "It appears random, is cer-



Police outside the Arndale Centre in Manchester, England, Friday October 11, 2019, after a stabbing incident at the shopping center that left four people injured.

Associated Press

tainly brutal and of course extremely frightening for anyone who witnessed it." Jackson said the incident was "bound to bring back

memories of the awful events of 2017," when 22 people were killed after a suicide bomber targeted a concert by pop star Ariana

Grande at Manchester Arena, a venue only few hundred meters away.

The Manchester Arena bombing caused widespread anguish in part because so many of the dead and wounded were young fans of Grande, a pop star with massive following among teenage girls.

Witnesses of Friday's attack described the distress of terrified shoppers sheltering in stores. Unarmed community support officers challenged the suspect, but were chased as they called for backup. Armed and unarmed officers responded within five minutes.

Freddie Houlder, 22, was at the center when he heard "a load of screams just outside" the shop he was in. A

woman came in and told others that "a guy just ran past the shop and tried to stab me."

"Luckily she had quite a thick jacket — she thought originally it was a fake knife because of how easily it grazed off," he said. "But police came in and said it was a real knife and she burst into tears."

The suspect was originally detained on assault charges but was later arrested on a charge of "the commission, preparation and instigation of an act of terrorism."

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he was "shocked by the incident," adding: "My thoughts are with the injured and all those affected." □



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UN chief orders travel, meetings, heat cut over cash crisis

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Meetings canceled. Escalators stopped. Official travel limited. U.N. documents delayed. Air conditioning and heating reduced. Limits on interpretation to the U.N.'s six official languages. And the fountain outside U.N. headquarters paid for by U.S. school children and opened in 1952 shut down. These are some of the measures Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has ordered effective Monday at all U.N. facilities and operations around the world to deal with the United Nations' worst cash crisis in nearly a decade.

The U.N. chief said in a letter to the heads of all U.N. entities circulated Friday that the emergency measures "will affect working conditions and operations until further notice."

U.N. management chief Catherine Pollard told the General Assembly's budget committee on Friday that 128 countries had paid \$1.99 billion in dues for the U.N.'s 2019 operating budget by Oct. 4.

But she said \$1.386 billion is owed for this year by 65 countries — including more than \$1 billion by the United States.

Pollard said "the regular budget has been facing severe liquidity issues in recent years, with a growing downward trend whereby, each year, the situation becomes more dire than the year before," Pollard said. "The cash deficits occur earlier in the year, linger longer and run deeper."

For the second successive year, she said, the U.N.

has exhausted "all regular budget liquidity reserves," despite several measures it has taken to reduce expenditures.

Pollard said the payments received so far this year represent only 70 percent of the total amount assessed, compared to 78 percent at the same time last year, "resulting in a gap of \$230 million."

To fully implement the U.N. budget, she said, the U.N. would need to collect at least \$808 million between October and December.

Pollard told a news conference that countries "have their own internal reasons for delaying paying their dues, "and for many of them it's their own political internal situations."

The scale of assessments was revised at the end of 2018, making China the U.N.'s second-largest contributor behind the U.S. Some countries may not have made budgetary provisions for their increased dues and some, like the U.S., have different calendar years for their budgets, she said.

According to figures Pollard presented Friday, the United States owes \$1.055 billion to the U.N.'s regular budget compared with \$842 million at the same time last year. The U.S. also owes \$3.7 billion to the separate budget for the U.N.'s 14 far-flung peacekeeping operations.

There was no immediate response to a request to the U.S. State Department for comment on when the Trump administration plans to pay its arrears. □



Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations delivers a speech at the C40 World Mayors Summit in Copenhagen, Denmark, Friday Oct. 11, 2019.

Associated Press

Suspect in German attack admits to shooting, ordered held

BERLIN (AP) — German media say the suspected gunman in a botched attack on a German synagogue that ended in the deaths of two people outside the building has admitted carrying out the shooting.

The German man, identified by prosecutors as Stephan B., was ordered held in custody pending formal charges at a closed-door hearing before a judge on Thursday night.

He is suspected of two counts of murder and seven of attempted murder from the attack in the city of Halle.

News agency dpa reported that the man admitted to the crime and a right-wing extremist motive, and federal prosecutors say he

testified for several hours. His lawyer, Hans-Dieter Weber, told broadcaster Suedwestrundfunk on Friday "it would be pointless to dispute anything, and

he didn't do that." The attack happened on Yom Kippur, Judaism's holiest day, and was broadcast live on a popular streaming site. □



People place down flowers and candles at the marketplace in the old town of Halle, Germany, Friday, Oct. 11, 2019.

Associated Press

Iran says oil tanker struck by missiles off Saudi Arabia

By NASSER KARIMI

JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Two missiles struck an Iranian tanker traveling through the Red Sea off the coast of Saudi Arabia on Friday, Iranian officials said, the latest incident in the region amid months of heightened tensions between Tehran and the U.S.

There was no word from Saudi Arabia on the reported attack and Saudi officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Oil prices spiked by 2% on the news.

"This latest incident, if confirmed to be an act of aggression is highly likely to be part of the wider narrative of deteriorating relations between Saudi and the U.S. and Iran," private maritime security firm Dryad Maritime warned.

"It is likely that the region, have been stable for the last month, will face another period of increasing maritime threats, as the Iranian and Saudi geopolitical stand-off continues," it



This photo released by the official news agency of the Iranian Oil Ministry, SHANA, shows Iranian oil tanker Sabiti traveling through the Red Sea Friday, Oct. 11, 2019.

Associated Press

added.

Iranian state television said the explosion damaged two storerooms aboard the oil tanker and caused an oil leak into the Red Sea

near the Saudi port city of Jiddah. The leak was later stopped, IRNA reported.

The state-run IRNA news agency, quoting Iran's National Iranian Tanker Co.,

identified the stricken vessel as the Sabiti. It turned on its tracking devices late Friday morning in the Red Sea, putting its location some 130 kilometers (80

miles) southwest of Jiddah, according to data from MarineTraffic.com. The ship is carrying some 1 million barrels of crude oil, according to an analysis from data firm Refinitiv.

Images released by Iran's Petroleum Ministry appeared to show no visible damage to the Sabiti visible from its bridge, though they did not show the ship's sides. The ministry's SHANA news agency said no ship nor any authority in the area responded to its distress messages.

The Sabiti last turned on its tracking devices in August near the Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas. Iranian tankers routinely turn off their trackers as U.S. sanctions target the sale of Iran's crude oil.

"The oil tanker ... sustained damages to the body when it was hit by missiles 60 miles (96 kilometers) from the Saudi port city of Jiddah," IRNA said.

The agency did not say whom Iranian officials suspect of launching the missiles. □

Putin says he doubts Ukraine can deliver on peace process

By YURAS KARMANAU

NATALIYA VASILYeva

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin lamented Friday the inability of his Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, to ensure a pullback of heavy weaponry in eastern Ukraine as the first step toward peace settlement.

Putin's remarks on Friday came a week after Ukraine, along with Russia and separatists in eastern Ukraine, signed an accord to pull back heavy weaponry and to hold an election in the area at a later date.

The pullback has not occurred because of shelling from both sides and threats from Ukrainian hardliners to hamper the disengagement, prompting Zelenskiy to argue that there won't be one so long as there are those who "don't want the disengagement" and "do random shooting."



Russian President Vladimir Putin gestures while speaking at the Summit of leaders from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, Friday, Oct. 11, 2019.

Associated Press

Russia has said the pullback needs to take place before a summit scheduled for this month between Putin, Zelenskiy, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Russia has vehemently denied its role in funding, arming and training the rebels, insisting that Kyiv faces a civil war.

Several opposition parties and far-right groups have opposed Zelenskiy's commitment to pull back weaponry in two locations near the separatist-held areas as well as his promise to support a local election, saying he's giving away too much.

Putin said that Russia is supportive of the initiatives to

bring peace to the separatist-held eastern Ukraine where 13,000 people have died since 2014 but said it is up to Zelenskiy and the Ukrainian establishment to see through the accords.

"We've agreed on the pullback of the forces but the current president still can't ensure the pullback," Putin said at a meeting in Turkmenistan. "He just can't."

Zelenskiy scored a major political victory last month when he successfully negotiated with Putin a major prisoner exchange, which saw 70 people — some of whom were imprisoned for several years — return home in Ukraine and Russia, respectively.

Zelenskiy, who was a successful comedian and entertainment producer before he won the election by a landslide in April, made it his top priority to bring an end to the war in Ukraine's industrial heartland.

Far-right groups are planning to stage a major rally in the capital Kyiv on Monday against Zelenskiy's peace plan.

Speaking at a military awards ceremony in Odesa on Friday, Zelenskiy said he works "24 hours a day" to bring about peace but insisted that he stands firm on Ukraine's commitment to hold a local election in eastern Ukraine as long as the vote is held under the Ukrainian law and in the presence of international observers.

Kyiv's Joint Forces' Operation in the east said Friday that their positions have come under repeated shelling in the past 24 hours. In Donetsk, separatist commander Ruslan Yakubov told the DAN News website that the rebel forces were ready for the pullback but did not go ahead because Kyiv did not indicate its readiness. □



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China's president in India for summit amid Kashmir tensions

By RISHI LEKHI

MAMALLAPURAM, India (AP) — Chinese President Xi Jinping

Jinping on Friday met with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a time of tensions over Beijing's support for Pakistan in opposing India's downgrading of Kashmir's semi-autonomy and continuing restrictions on the disputed region.

Xi was greeted at the Chennai airport by Tamil Nadu state Gov. Patwarilal Purohit as a cultural group beat drums and blew horns.

India's foreign ministry said Xi and Modi met in the seaside temple town of Mamallapuram over dinner for

nearly two hours on Friday. The talks will continue Saturday.

Modi and Xi resolved to work together in facing the challenges of radicalization and terrorism besides emphasizing on expanding trade and investment, the Press Trust of India news agency cited India's Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale as saying.

There was an acknowledgement that both India and China were "very complex and very diverse countries" and both would work together so that radicalization and terrorism did not affect their multi-cultur-



In this handout photo provided by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, Chinese President Xi Jinping is received upon arrival in Chennai, India, Friday, Oct. 11, 2019.

Associated Press



Rescue teams attend the scene where a plane crashed while taking off from Wilson airport in Nairobi, Kenya Friday, Oct. 11, 2019.

Associated Press

Commercial plane crashes in Kenyan capital but all said safe

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — A small commercial plane has crashed while taking off from an airport in Kenya's capital but operator Silverstone Air says all passengers and crew have safely disembarked.

It is not immediately clear how many people were on board when the crash occurred Friday morning at Nairobi's Wilson Airport. The

cause of the crash is not yet known.

Local media have reported some injuries as passengers were being evacuated from the scene.

The plane was meant to fly to the coastal city of Mombasa.

The airline says in a statement it is working with the authorities to assess the situation. □

al, multi-ethnic and multi-religious societies, Gokhale said. He did not give details.

India accuses neighboring Pakistan of arming and training insurgent groups fighting for Kashmir's independence or its merger with Pakistan since 1989. Pakistan denies the charge. Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan and the two countries have fought two wars over its control since they won independence from British colonialists in 1947.

The leaders' meeting in Wuhan, China, in April 2018 was preceded by tensions caused by a 10-week standoff between their armed forces on the Bhutan border.

Mamallapuram was decorated with arches studded with fruits and green vegetables. Hundreds of young children in traditional dress carrying posters with photographs of Xi and Modi waited for hours to greet the Chinese leader.

The town was under tight surveillance, with thou-

sands of security personnel. Mamallapuram is 55 kilometers (35 miles) south of Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu state.

China claims some 90,000 square kilometers (35,000 square miles) of territory in India's northeast, while India says China occupies 38,000 square kilometers (15,000 square miles) of its territory on the Aksai Chin Plateau in the western Himalayas. Officials have met at least 20 times to discuss the competing border claims without making significant progress.

The two countries fought a border war in 1962.

India also is concerned about China's moves to build strategic and economic ties with its neighbors, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and the Maldives.

Tensions in Kashmir, which is divided between Pakistan and India but claimed by both, have escalated since August, when India downgraded the semi-autonomy of Indian-administered Kashmir and imposed a security and communications

lockdown.

China supported Pakistan in raising India's actions at the U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York. China said India should not act unilaterally in Kashmir, a portion of which China also controls.

Xi arrived two days after hosting Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan in Beijing.

On Friday, Pakistanis formed a human chain in the capital, Islamabad, to express their support for people in Indian-controlled Kashmir. In a speech to the participants, Prime Minister Imran Khan criticized Modi for downgrading Kashmir's status and said Kashmiris will get independence soon.

He termed the change in Kashmir's status a "stupid act" and said Kashmiris will not accept it.

India says Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. "China is well aware of our position. It is not for other countries to comment on the internal affairs of India," India's External Affairs Ministry said in a statement Wednesday. □

Indigenous pour in from Amazon to boost Ecuador protests

By GONZALO SOLANO

Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Hundreds more indigenous protesters poured into Ecuador's capital from the country's Amazon on Friday, increasing pressure on President Lenín Moreno over fuel price hikes and economic measures that have sparked more than a week of anti-government demonstrations.

Thousands of indigenous protesters have occupied the government's House of Culture and nearby universities in Quito, sometimes joined by union members and students, in protests that forced Moreno to move government operations from the capital to the port of Guayaquil.

Ecuador's president has said he will not back down on the austerity measures due to the urgent need to stabilize the country's economy and deal with a debt he says he inherited from the previous administration. On arriving at the House of



Anti-government protesters gather outside the Casa de la Cultura where indigenous protesters are based, in Quito, Ecuador, Thursday, Oct. 10, 2019.

Associated Press

Culture, Amazonian indigenous leader Marlon Vargas said "we have taken over the (state) institutions as well as oil wells and have said there will be nothing for Guayaquil or Quito." Protests and occupations

of wells have forced state oil company Petroecuador to declare "force majeure" - or forces beyond its control - in its crude exports. A three-day national holiday in Ecuador began on Friday and there was a

reduced number of passengers at bus terminals in Guayaquil, Quito and other cities, with bus companies warning of possible road blockages by protesters. On Thursday, anti-government protesters forced

captive police officers to carry a coffin containing the body of an indigenous activist during a memorial service. The man is said to have been killed during the clashes.

Earlier, one of eight captive officers was forced to drape a national flag on his shoulders and wear a hat used by some indigenous people. The lone female officer in the group was seen wiping away tears. The officers appeared to be unharmed, and were released late Thursday.

"The future is very dark," said economic analyst Fernando Martín. "I hope both sides realize that what they're doing is hurting themselves and the country. This isn't good for Ecuador."

Ecuador's cuts in fuel subsidies were among measures announced amid a \$4.2 billion credit plan with the International Monetary Fund, which says the funds will strengthen the economy and generate jobs. □

Cuba's historical generation leaves top legislative body

By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba's top legislative body will no longer include members of the country's historical generation of former rebels, part of a broader political reform that started to go into effect on Thursday.

Members of the National Assembly voted near-unanimously for Miguel-Díaz Canel, 59, to remain in place as president. They also voted for 75-year-old Esteban Lazo to remain head of the National Assembly. Under the reform, Lazo also becomes head of the Council of State, the top legislative body, a post previously held by Díaz-Canel and his predecessors Raúl Castro and Fidel Castro.

The Council of State oversees the passage of new laws and has some oversight of the president of the republic. In the coming months, Díaz-Canel will appoint a prime minister to run the daily workings of government. On paper, the



In this July 8, 2016 file photo, lawmakers attend a National Assembly session in Havana, Cuba.

Associated Press

changes divide the powers of the once-dominant presidency held by Fidel and then Raúl Castro, who simultaneously held all of the country's most important positions.

Addressing the assembly, Díaz-Canel said the country was withstanding energy shortages brought on by new sanctions imposed by the Trump administration, which says it wants to force

Cuba to drop its support for Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.

"If there's been anything good about these tense days it's been that it's revealed Cuba's tremendous

ability to work more efficiently," Díaz-Canel said. "The more they attack and intimidate us, the greater our will, our national strength, our unity."

It remains unclear if the changes truly affect the workings of power in Cuba, a single-party state whose decision-making processes remain opaque. Raúl Castro remains head of the Communist Party, the ultimate authority on the island. And the country's military and intelligence services wield deep influence over virtually every working of the state.

Thursday's votes were the first to put in effect the government restructuring contained in a constitutional reform approved in a national referendum this year. One stated intention of the reform is to pass control of the Cuban government to new generations after decades dominated by the Castro's aging fellow fighters, who took control in 1959. □

LOCAL



Faye Ranch, a special horse sanctuary hidden in Jamanota

by Dilma Arends Geerman

SANTA CRUZ — Aruba has one special horse sanctuary and it started with a Holy Communion gift decades ago. The stead is an effort by Frederique Drost, her husband Oliver de Jong and their children. Together they founded the Equine Sanctuary Aruba, ESA, which is called Faye Ranch. The ranch is dedicated to the rescue of weak, sick, and even mistreated horses.

"The name Faye is based on where we lived before moving permanently to Aruba. We lived in Houston, on Faye Road. There, I worked with a horse sanctuary as well," Drost explains. Drost was born and raised in The Netherlands and was always interested in horses. Her parents gave her first horse, a pony, on her Communion Day. But Parinka, as she called her pony, was to be shared with her younger sibling. She got her own horse when she was a little older and called it Lightfeet, which is the name of the horse in the popular Dutch children series book Arendsoog (Eagle's Eye). Since then, Frederique dedicated her life to

the care of horses and has over 40 years of working directly with horses and other equines.

Her husband's work allowed family De Jong/Drost to travel around the world, visiting Aruba once before. After Houston they decided to return to Aruba and bought their home close to the Arikok National Park. The location and spacious property was exactly what the family was looking for to realize their next plans. Frederique was always set on having a horse sanctuary on the island.

The initial work was hard. Husband and children all helped in creating pathways in the thorny acacia tortuosa or as it is known, the Hubada tree which is abundant in the area. The family ensured to create shady spaces and enough safe areas for injured horses to move around and hide from the sun. The first two horses that arrived at Faye Ranch were Olympia and Rocky. Frederique always looks first at the legs and hooves of the horses and in the case of Olympia she was unfortunately too far gone. Her pain was unbearable and she had to



be euthanized. Rocky luckily has improved and is now accompanied by Prince. "Faye Ranch cannot take more than four horses at the same time. That is the maximum number for the space we have," says Drost.

Why the hooves

Drost is a specialist in equine hoof care. However, unlike most farriers who do also the trimming and balancing of horses' hooves, she does not believe in the need of iron shoes. In fact she wonders whether people understand the damage a horse shoe does to the health of a horse or any other equine, like donkeys, particularly, if the hooves are not regularly trimmed.

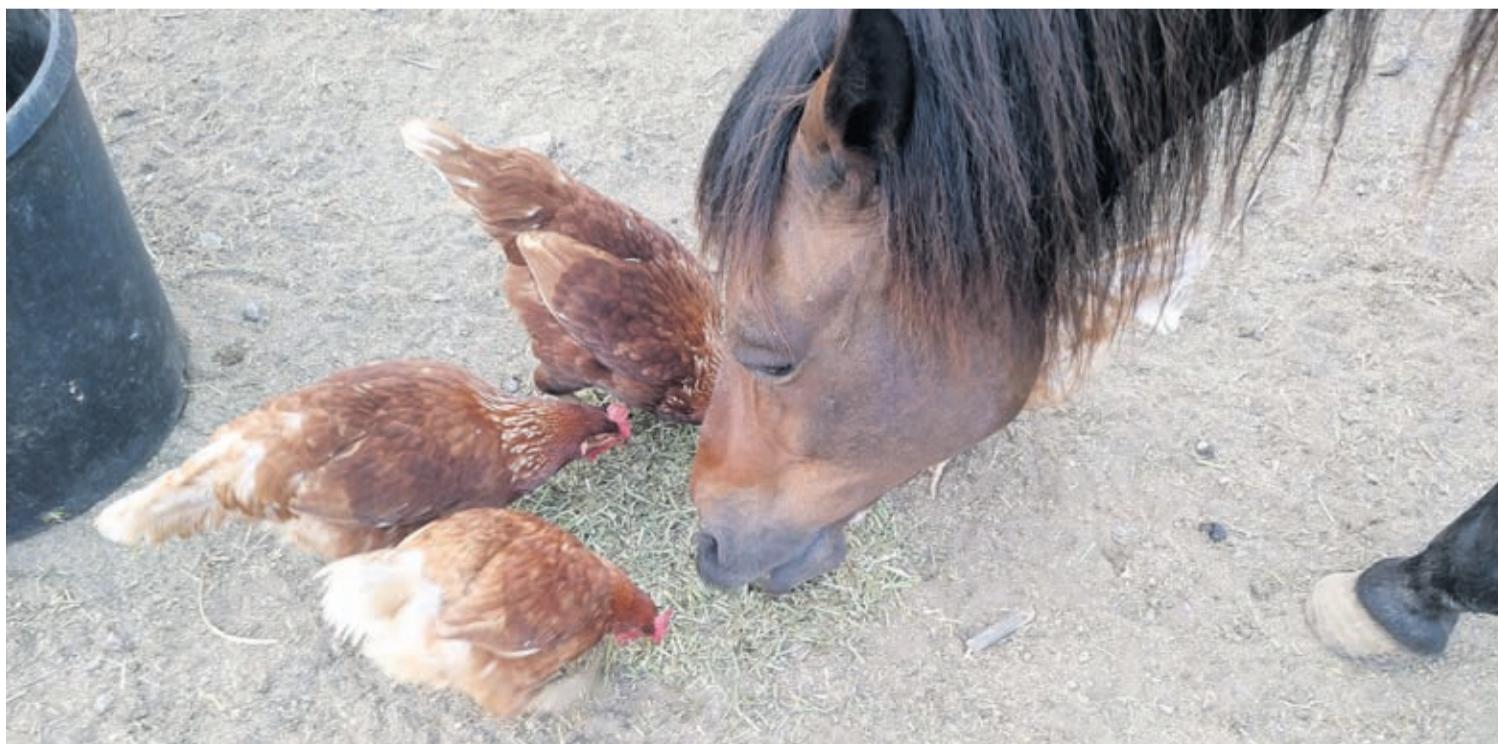
"Hooves are more important to the animal's health than most people realize. Iron shoes do not only weaken the hooves but also affect the nerves connected to the feet. Because of the iron shoes horses do not get to feel the ground or floor. And as a result, most develop arthritis or other issues that cause lots of pain and suffering."

Drost assures that a horse or a donkey for that matter do not need iron shoes. "Their hooves are made of keratin, the same as human nails. And like nails, hooves grow. But natural movement keeps the growth under control. This explains why donkeys and

horses need big spaces to roam around and thus keep their hooves under control in a natural way." A horse needs to walk at least 16 kilometers a day in order for its hoof not to grow too much and become a problem she says. "A hoof is like a nail but one that is needed to hold up the weight of the animal. An iron shoe is like an acrylic layer on the natural nail. This means that like with human nails this unnatural material will debilitate the nail or in this case, the hooves." Moreover, an iron shoe can even take away the stability of a horse. Horses can easily lose their footing because of the iron shoes, which contribute to the animals experiencing 800 times more impact when walking.

Horseback riding

Frederique encourages horseback riding tours on the island as it is one way to get the animals out walking. She urges the ranches however to take the time of the day into consideration to avoid harsh sun. "And they truly should focus on the care of legs and the hooves. Take care of the wellbeing of the animal. Ideally, remove the iron shoes to avoid slipping and the negative physical impact."



Continued on Next Page



Continued from Previous Page

With a little help

The work at Faye Ranch is substantial. Trimming and healing deformed hooves is not easy as horses do not always cooperate. Drost keeps a log on everything she does and photographs the development of the hooves. Currently she is getting the help of one or two volunteers and despite their willingness the island's veterinarians are not specialized in this type of work. She also receives support from the Wit Gele Kruis (White Yellow Cross), which is a foundation that is specialized in providing care at home. She gets lots of materials she needs for the horses from them. Other than that the entire operation is financed by the family. The hope is to get more support. "We put the manure available for gardeners to pick up, in exchange for either apples and/or carrots to feed the horses."

Faye Ranch is about more than just caring mistreated horses. The goal is to educate the entire community on the care of horses and therefore the ranch welcomes school children to visit. This way children can appreciate the value of caring for animals and learn about the importance of providing equines the necessary natural space. Also it is quite clear that the effects of horses on humans can be major. "A horse can provide tranquility and I have noticed this with a youngster who used to come and help here at the ranch. The boy was restless and could not attend school because of anxiety issues. His family and I saw a change in demeanor. The horses responded to him in a way that made him feel much calmer." And even though Faye Ranch is not directed towards people in the Autism Spectrum Disor-

der (ASD), children with this disorder who can deal with animals are more than welcome," Drost continues.

The ranch is another project that enriches Aruba and illustrates that the island is a place where care and love can be offered to the most vulnerable, including horses who need more attention. The family strives to be sustainable and promote the use of local vegetation to provide food and shade to the horses who roam the property thanks to carefully placed food and water. Faye Ranch is a haven for Rocky and Prince and also for local, colorful singing birds who at the same time control the fly population. □

For more information and volunteering at Faye Ranch, visit the Facebook page Faye Ranch. For donations, visit equinesanctuary.weebly.com

Stickhouse: Italian passion ice cream handmade in Aruba



PALM BEACH — Unique taste and a healthy dessert is what you get with ice cream of Stickhouse Aruba. This artisanal ice cream is handmade on a daily base with fresh fruits and 100 % natural ingredients. Owners Claudia Hernandez and Randolph Arrends fell in love with this product when travelling in Italy and decided to offer you the opportunity to experience the real Italian gelato..... here in Aruba. This is your tasty, vegan, gluten-free and non-dairy treat, indulge in La Dolce Vitta!

Picture this: wife Claudia preparing the natural bases of the gelato tastes in her artisanal atelier while husband Randolph works the machines that require some manly strength. "The bases are made with fresh fruits only and go into the malls to freeze. The rules to prepare the gelato are strict and we can only leave them in for a certain time. To get them out I need a lot of strength, it is my daily work-out," Randolph jokes.



Their little daughter has the difficult task to try every flavor and give her honest and experienced opinion. This is what they call a family business for real, this ice cream is made with love and passion which are the original ingredients of the Italian ice makers from the start. Gelato represents one of the most famous and successful Italian histories worldwide. The art of making gelato in Italy has been a family business for a long time, indicative of great passion and creativity handed down from father to son. Thanks to technology and Italian creativity, in 2009 was launched Stickhouse franchising, an innovative project that allows you to taste a gelato on a stick in Aruba daily

made with genuine ingredients. A great tradition has been reinvented!

More Than 50 Flavors

Coco, strawberry cheese-cake, vanilla, hazelnut, pistachio, chocolate, mango, strawberry, kiwi, watermelon and lemon belong to your world of choices here. But there is much more. Claudia added some of her Latin spirit with tamarind, Dulce de Leche and soursop. "Remember, this is a full tasty ice cream with vitamins kept in." The success on a stick was soon discovered by other places on the island which resulted in the newest service: delivery of freezers.

Continued on Next Page

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"The mini market Wine & Spirit at Playa Linda Beach Resort, beach bar Kadushi and the Starbucks at Hyatt resort and restaurant Happy Bowl at Renaissance Marketplace offer their selection of Stickhouse delight. We fill them up on a daily base. And of course besides these locations we have our real Italian ice cream cart with terrace in Paseo Herencia Mall." Stickhouse is not only extremely yummy, Randolph explains that this ice cream can be custom made meaning he can make your gelato on a stick in the colors of the flag or company, anything. "A great idea for a National Day or company event."

Curious about this little touch of Italy? Make sure you find your way to one of the below locations. The ice cart at Paseo is open from 5.30 to 10 PM daily. We know for sure you will be stoked, just like us. Buon appetito! □



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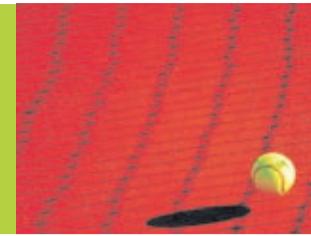
EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors and one visitor as Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba. The Distinguished visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were **Richard and Roseanne Stanizzo** as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba, and **Laura Todaro** as Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba. All these honorees are from the USA.

These wonderful people stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, its safety, delicious variety of foods and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Divi Village Golf and Beach Resort presented the certificates to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □

SPORTS



Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece celebrates after defeating Novak Djokovic of Serbia in the men's singles quarterfinals match at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center in Shanghai, China, Friday, Oct. 11, 2019.

Associated Press

Federer, Djokovic both lose in Shanghai quarterfinals

By SANDRA HARWITT

Associated Press

SHANGHAI (AP) — Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic went from perfectly unbeatable to unbelievably beaten in the quarterfinals of the Shanghai Masters. Federer and Djokovic had been a combined 13-0 in Shanghai with a spot in the semifinals on the line, but both lost Friday.

Federer saved five match points in the second set and received a point penalty in the third in the 6-3, 6-7 (7), 6-3 loss to fifth-seeded Alexander Zverev. Djokovic, the defending champion, lost to sixth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.

"He deserved the victory," Djokovic said of the 21-year-old Tsitsipas. "He was the better player in the second and third sets. I started well in the first set, but I wasn't sharp enough."

Continued on Next Page



Laine's 2 goals, 2 assists help Jets beat Wild 5-2

Minnesota Wild's Marcus Foligno (17) leaps in the air as a shot gets past Winnipeg Jets' Anthony Bitetto (2) and goaltender Connor Hellebuyck (37) for a goal during the third period of an NHL hockey game Thursday, Oct. 10, 2019, in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Associated Press
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Bringing it home: Delle Donne, Mystics earn 1st WNBA crown

By DOUG FEINBERG

AP Basketball Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Elena Delle Donne felt cursed. Every time she made it to the game's biggest stage, she was hindered by injuries. This time around it was three herniated disks in her back. The league's MVP wouldn't let that keep her from her first WNBA championship. Emma Meesseman scored 22 points and Delle Donne added 21 to help the Washington Mystics beat the Connecticut Sun 89-78 on Thursday night in the winner-take-all Game 5 of the Finals.

"Every time I get the Finals, something happens," Delle Donne said. "I think I pissed the basketball gods off when I decided to step away (in college). I hope this ends the drama that I'm having in the Finals."

It was the first title in franchise history.

"It feels phenomenal, my goodness, feels so good. Hard to put it into words," said Delle Donne, who fell short in two previous Finals appearances. "To win it with such a great group of people. We wanted to win

it for the person next to us. We'll remember this season. I'm kind of sad the season's about to be over. My goodness, we sure ended this on a high note."

It was a fitting conclusion to an entertaining series and WNBA season. This was the seventh series in league history that had gone to a deciding Game 5, and the home team has won five of them.

Delle Donne scored four points during a decisive 8-0 run that gave the Mystics an 80-72 lead with under three minutes left. But it was Meesseman, the soft-spoken Belgian who unveiled a new, aggressive "Playoff Emma" persona during the title run, who was named MVP of the Finals.

Meeseman missed last season while playing with the Belgian national team. "I don't think I'm the missing piece. I'm their teammate (and did what) I need to do to help my team win a championship. This is my family right here," she said. Delle Donne, a seven-year veteran and two-time MVP, came to Washington three years ago in a trade from



Washington Mystics center Emma Meesseman holds the trophy in the locker room after Game 5 of basketball's WNBA Finals against the Connecticut Sun, Thursday, Oct. 10, 2019 in Washington.

Associated Press

Chicago, hoping to get the Mystics their first title. She grew up about an hour from the city in Delaware and wanted to be closer to home. Delle Donne sat out a year in college when she transferred in the summer before her freshman season from UConn to Delaware to be closer to her sister Lizzie, who is blind, deaf and has cerebral palsy. "Lizzie has been my journey, and some people have never understood my decisions. Others have. But she's been my path, and somehow she's gotten me to this moment," Delle Donne said. "You know, it's been a

crazy journey. It's been my own path. It's been different from everyone else's. "I've just kind of believed in it, and you've got to follow your heart, and I've always trusted in her. Another reason I can battle through injury is like she's been dealt the worst cards possible with her disabilities, and every day she gets up, she smiles, she laughs, she loves. So she's always just been my inspiration."

Delle Donne has battled injuries and illnesses all season, breaking her nose early in the year. She still wears a mask to protect it. She also wears a knee brace

on her right knee after suffering a bone bruise in last year's Finals.

Coach Mike Thibault earned his first WNBA championship. The league's all-time winningest coach had reached the Finals three times in his career — twice with Connecticut — and last season with Washington, but fell short each time. The game got off to a slow start with choppy play, but it picked up during a back-and-forth second half. The Mystics trailed by nine midway through the third quarter before rallying within two at the end of the period. □

Continued from Previous Page
Djokovic had been 8-0 in quarterfinal matches at the Shanghai Masters, and won four titles. Federer had been 5-0.

Federer received a code violation for hitting a ball into the stands, and then received a point penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct after flicking a ball into the air when trailing 3-0 in the third set.

When asked about the point penalty after the match, Federer didn't want to go into any detail.

"So you could write on Twitter, you mean?" Federer answered. "No, it would be nice to write something nice once also about the game."

"Next question."

The 22-year-old Zverev now leads Federer 4-3 in career



Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece celebrates after defeating Novak Djokovic of Serbia in the men's singles quarterfinals match at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center in Shanghai, China, Friday, Oct. 11, 2019.

Associated Press

meetings.
"I mean, they're knocking on the door big time, the young guys," Federer said. "It's exciting. They're great. It's really open now, I think, for the finish of this tournament."

Zverev will next play Matteo Berrettini, an 11th-seeded Italian who defeated fourth-seeded Dominic Thiem 7-6 (8), 6-4. Until Friday's match, Djokovic had won 24 straight sets in Asia, a run that included

last year's Shanghai Masters and the title in Tokyo last week.

Tsitsipas has now beaten Djokovic twice in three matches. The Greek player defeated Djokovic in their first meeting at the 2018 Toronto tournament and Djokovic won their match in Madrid this season.

"It's the best comeback that I have ever had probably," Tsitsipas said of Friday's victory.

Tsitsipas also earned a place at the year-end ATP Finals for the first time on Friday. But that was guaranteed when third-seeded Daniil Medvedev beat Fabio Fognini 6-3, 7-6 (4) in another quarterfinal match. Medvedev, who will face Tsitsipas in Saturday's semifinals, is one match away from reaching a sixth con-

secutive tournament final. He reached his first Grand Slam final at the U.S. Open, and then won titles in Cincinnati and St. Petersburg. Medvedev leads the tour with 57 match wins this season and is 40-1 on hard courts when winning the first set. The only time he lost a hard-court match after winning the first set was against Gael Monfils in Rotterdam.

Prior to Friday's match, Fogini said Medvedev was one of the most dangerous players to face. "If some top players like Fabio can say this about me, shows that I'm on the good way, I'm playing good, and it's not easy to play against me," Medvedev said. "Surely, yeah, that's what I tried to show today on the match and it worked out." □

Cole, Astros beat Rays 6-1 in ALDS Game 5; Yankees next

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

HOUSTON (AP) — All season long, it seemed inevitable. Yankees-Astros for the American League pennant.

"It's the matchup that we wanted," Houston shortstop Carlos Correa said. "It's the matchup that everybody wants to watch. It's must-see TV right there. So everybody is going to be tuning in. It's going to be fun."

Houston made it happen Thursday night as Gerrit Cole pitched another playoff masterpiece and the Astros jumped to a quick lead, turning back the Tampa Bay Rays 6-1 in the deciding Game 5 of their AL Division Series.

On deck, the heavyweight matchup so many fans were anticipating: Jose Altuve and the 107-win Astros against Aaron Judge and the 103-win Yankees. Game 1 is Saturday night in Houston — the Astros won four of seven meetings this season.

"This is two incredible powerhouse teams," Houston ace Justin Verlander said. "We'll find ourselves in the middle of the ring here in a couple of days and we'll be going at it."

After fellow aces Zack Greinke and Verlander were unable to close out the scrappy Rays on the road, Cole made sure Houston moved on. Given a 4-0 cushion in the first inning, he dominated through the eighth, striking out 10 and allowing just two hits.

"I'm just going to treat it like it's the next game, man," said Cole, who grew up a Yankees fan. "I mean, we know that they're obviously very talented, and it's going to be a dogfight."

Michael Brantley and Altuve put the finishing touches on this victory, hitting back-to-back home runs in the eighth. The Astros advanced to their third straight ALCS, and are aiming for their second World Series crown in that span. Houston beat the Yankees in a seven-game ALCS on the way to its first championship in 2017. The Astros also won the 2015 AL wild-card game at Yankee Sta-

dium.

The Rays beat Oakland in the AL wild-card game, then won Games 3 and 4 against the Astros to extend their first playoff run since 2013.

But facing Cole, the Rays were in trouble — especially after Altuve, Alex Bregman and the Astros scored four times in the first against Tyler Glasnow, who said afterward it was pretty obvious he was tipping pitches. "You get a taste of this, you want to keep going," Rays manager Kevin Cash said. "Today we kind of got out-powered. Outpowered on the mound and obviously at the plate."

Cole followed his 15-strikeout gem in a Game 2 win with another overpowering effort. The right-hander, who was drafted by the Yankees out of high school but didn't sign, improved to 18-0 in his last 24 starts.

"This team is special, and the reason that we're special is because different guys step up every single night," Bregman said. "Yeah, if one guy goes off we're probably going to win. Gerrit went off twice this series."

Cole topped the majors with 326 strikeouts this season, led the AL with a 2.50 ERA and posted 20 wins, one behind Verlander for most in the big leagues. He tried to stick to what got him this far and not alter his approach on Thursday night even though the stakes were so much higher.

"You're not naive to the situation you're in, but you can't afford to treat it any different," he said.

The 29-year-old struck out the first two batters in the eighth before Willy Adames grounded out to end Cole's night.

"I don't know if anybody can get better than that," Adames said. "He was unbelievable last start, and today was still the same."

Cole beat his chest once before walking to the dugout to a huge ovation from the rowdy sellout crowd of 43,418 at Minute Maid Park. "Energy was so great all night," Cole said. "They deserved a hat tip."



Houston Astros starting pitcher Gerrit Cole, left, delivers against the Tampa Bay Rays during the first inning of Game 5 of a baseball American League Division Series in Houston, Thursday, Oct. 10, 2019.

Associated Press

After winning an MLB-best and franchise-record 107 games in the regular season, the Astros were determined not to suffer the same fate as the Dodgers, winners of 106 games, who were ousted from the playoffs by the wild-card Nationals on Wednesday night.

Houston had been out-scored 14-4 in the last two games, but looked sharp at home, where it went 60-21 in the regular season.

A day after the Cardinals scored a postseason-record 10 runs in the first inning of a 13-1 win over the Braves, the Astros scored four runs fast. Now it wasn't

nearly as big as what St. Louis did, but after the Astros were shut down at Tropicana Field, it was just as huge for them.

"It shows a lot of character," Houston general manager Jeff Luhnow said. "Because if we hadn't gotten up early I think it would have been a different ballgame the way they have their relievers lined up and ready to go.

I'm glad it wasn't a one-run game. Getting four early mattered a lot."

The Astros will make their seventh appearance in an LCS and are the first team to reach the ALCS three seasons in a row since the Detroit Tigers did it from 2011-13.

Altuve's shot gave him 11 postseason homers to pass Chase Utley for most all-time by a second baseman.

Cole extended his major league record by striking out at least 10 batters for the 11th straight game, a stretch where he's fanned 135.

Cole pitched a 1-2-3 third but didn't strike anyone out in the frame, ending a streak of 73 consecutive innings with at least one strikeout. The streak, which dated back to Aug. 1, was the longest such streak since 1961, besting the second-best stretch by 33 innings.

George Springer and Brantley hit back-to-back singles and Altuve's single made it 1-0. Bregman's double, which landed just in front of the bullpen in right-center, scored two more to push the lead to 3-0.

Yuli Gurriel's groundball

single to left field added another. Houston's five hits and four runs set franchise playoff records for most hits and runs in the first inning.

Eric Sogard hit a solo homer in the Tampa Bay second in his first start in almost a month while dealing with a foot injury. But Tampa Bay managed only a single by Ji-Man Choi in the fourth and a walk by Travis d'Arnaud to start the seventh against Cole.

Roberto Osuna pitched a hitless ninth to finish off the win.

Cash had said he thought Glasnow could throw about 90 pitches in this one, but he'd seen enough of the big right-hander after 40 pitches and lifted him with two outs in the third for Blake Snell.

Snell, the 2018 AL Cy Young Award winner, got the next four outs in his second career relief appearance after getting the save in Game 4. The Rays wound up using nine pitchers.

UP NEXT

Greinke, who took the loss in Game 3, is likely to start for Houston in Game 1 of the ALCS. □

Patriots force 4 turnovers, beat Giants 35-14 to reach 6-0



New England Patriot quarterback Tom Brady scores a touchdown in the second half of an NFL football game against the New York Giants, Thursday, Oct. 10, 2019, in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press

By KYLE HIGHTOWER
AP Sports Writer

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)

— Under coach Bill Belichick, the Patriots have made a habit of besting young quarterbacks.

They can add Giants rookie Daniel Jones to that list.

Tom Brady had two touchdown runs and moved ahead of Peyton Manning for second place on the NFL's all-time passing yards list as New England pulled away for a 35-14 victory over the New York Giants on Thursday night.

The reigning Super Bowl champion Patriots also returned a blocked punt for a touchdown and forced four turnovers, including a fumble return for a score, to move to 6-0 for the first time since time since 2015.

Brady finished 31 of 41 for 334 yards and an interception. Julian Edelman had his second straight 100-yard receiving game, catching nine passes for 113 yards.

Jones had three interceptions on the night, finishing 15 of 31 for 161 yards.

New England has now won 19 straight games against a first or second-year quarterback, the longest such streak in NFL history.

"It was kind of an odd game, anytime you get three scores in the game that are non-offensive touchdowns," Belichick said. "That's kind of a season's worth and it all happened in one game."

The Patriots did it without running back Rex Burkhead, who missed his second straight game with a foot injury. Receiver Phillip Dorsett was inactive with a hamstring issue. During the game, receiver Josh Gordon injured his left knee trying to make a tackle after a fumble recovery.

"Guys just kind of filled in," Brady said. "We knew we weren't gonna have Phillip tonight. ... Then Josh got hurt. Just kind of dealing

with kind of what everyone else deals with this time of year. Lots of injuries and attrition and so forth. But was a good win."

Despite struggling to move the ball for most of the game, New York (2-4) had the ball trailing 21-14 with 8:43 left in the fourth quarter.

Jones completed a pass to running back Jon Hilliman, who was hit in the backfield by Patriots linebacker Jamie Collins, forcing a fumble. Kyle Van Noy recovered, sprinted 22 yards and stretched the ball to the pylon for the touchdown.

It was part of an error-filled game by both offenses. Like the Patriots, the Giants were missing some of their playmakers. Running back Saquon Barkley sat a third straight game because of a sprained right ankle, tight end Evan Engram sat with a knee injury and receiver Sterling Shepard was in the

concussion protocol. As a result, both teams had issues executing and hanging onto the ball.

Jones was confused at times by the Patriots' coverages, contributing to his turnovers.

And Brady, in addition to his interception, had a fumble that was returned for a touchdown.

"I didn't play well by any means," Jones said. "I don't think it was overwhelming. I just made bad plays."

The Patriots moved swiftly on the opening drive, getting to the Giants 19. But Sony Michel was stopped for no gain on fourth-and-1.

New England took over in Giants territory for its third possession after Stephon Gilmore deflected a pass by Jones that was intercepted by John Simon. The Patriots gave the ball back on the next play when Janoris Jenkins picked off Brady's pass intended for Edelman.

New England broke the stalemate late in the first quarter when Riley Dixon's punt from the 6-yard line was blocked by Brandon Bolden and scooped up by Chase Winovich, who ran it in for the touchdown.

The Patriots then got the game's first offensive score on their sixth touch of the night when Brandon Bolden capped a five-play, 20-yard drive with a 1-yard run. The Giants bounced back on their ensuing possession, with Jones connecting on a deep pass to Golden Tate, who sprinted for a 64-yard touchdown. It was the first passing TD given up by the Patriots this season.

The Patriots were just three plays into their next drive when Lorenzo Carter dragged down Brady for a 9-yard sack. Brady fumbled, and linebacker Markus Golden returned it 42 yards for a touchdown. While trying to tackle Golden, Gordon got caught under a tangle of players and got his left leg pinned underneath him. He needed assistance as he limped off the field.

New England figured things out just before the half, getting a 1-yard run by Brady that capped an 11-play, 75-yard drive to put the Patriots ahead 21-14.

INJURIES

Giants: DL Olsen Pierre left in the second quarter with a concussion.

Patriots: S Patrick Chung left in the first quarter with a chest injury. ... TE Matt LaCosse exited in the first quarter with a knee injury. ... DB J.C. Jackson left with a knee injury. ... FB Jakob Johnson and LB Dont'a Hightower both left with shoulder injuries.

BAD TREND

The Giants have given up at least 400 yards in four of their six games.

OLD MAN'S GAME

At 42 years and 68 days, Brady became the oldest player in the Super Bowl era to rush for two TDs in a game.

UP NEXT

Giants: Host Arizona on Oct. 20.

Patriots: Visit the New York Jets on Oct. 21. □

Seahawks flying high as they visit unpredictable Browns

By BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

The Seahawks were supposed to be continuing their retool this year, one season after their remake helped get them back into the playoffs. Instead, they have one of the NFL's best records.

The Browns were pegged (hyped?) to be a budding powerhouse with all of the improvements in talent, plus the predicted maturity of Baker Mayfield in his second pro season. Instead, they are perhaps the most inconsistent team in the league, with Mayfield struggling.

Seattle (4-1) is at Cleveland (2-3) in a most intriguing matchup Sunday.

A Seahawks victory, combined with a 49ers loss to the Rams, would put Seattle on top of the tough NFC West. But it's difficult to figure out which Browns squad they will face: Will it be the team that won in Baltimore, or the team that was blown out last Monday night in San Francisco?

"I don't think it was my best assignment as a teacher," Seahawks coach Pete Carroll said of assigning his players to watch Browns-49ers. "The game didn't work out. I was hoping it was going to be a real battle. The game kind of got lopsided, so it wasn't as beneficial. It's still really good to see the guys. You hear the stories about the players and the backgrounds. The guys will come in here today are much more familiar with them because of that. In that regard, it's always helpful. Too bad it wasn't a better game."

Will it be a better performance by the Browns on Sunday?

"We have done it before," running back Nick Chubb said. "After every loss we have, we came back harder. That is what I expect this team to do every time. Hopefully, we can stack some wins, but I know when we do face adversity, we

bounce back harder."

Week 6 began with the New England Patriots' 35-14 victory over the New York Giants. Rookie quarterback Daniel Jones and the Giants (2-4) kept it close, trailing by a touchdown midway through the fourth quarter, but a forced fumble by Jamie Collins led to a TD that gave the Patriots a cushion. New England forced four turnovers, and Tom Brady had two touchdown runs and moved ahead of Peyton Manning for second place on the NFL's all-time passing yards list. The reigning Super Bowl champions are 6-0 for the first time since 2015.

Off this week are Buffalo (4-1), Chicago (3-2), Oakland (3-2) and Indianapolis (3-2).

San Francisco (4-0) at Los Angeles Rams (3-2)

The other two contenders out west; isn't that delightful for this long rivalry?

The Rams have lost two in a row as their defense has sprung holes. The Niners came off their bye and routed Cleveland.

San Francisco is off to its first 4-0 start since 1990. The only 5-0 starts for the franchise since joining the NFL are 1990, 1984, 1952. The won the NFL championship in the 1984 season.

A key for the Rams' defense is stopping the 49ers early in the second half; they have scored a touchdown on the first possession in all four games this season. Slowing down the running game would help: San Francisco ran for 275 yards vs. Cleveland and lead the NFL with 200 yards rushing per game.

For LA, the most efficient offense has come through the air. The Rams are the only team with three receivers with 325 yards receiving: Cooper Kupp, Brandin Cooks and Robert Woods. Kupp is second in the NFL with 41 catches and ranks fourth with 505 yards and four TDs.

Houston (3-2) at Kansas



In this Sept. 29, 2019, file photo, Cleveland Browns running back Nick Chubb (24) avoids a tackle by Baltimore Ravens cornerback Maurice Canady (26) while running for a touchdown during the second half of an NFL football game in Baltimore.

Associated Press

City (4-1)

The scoreboard might blow up from all the points these two could produce.

Houston scored the second-most points (53) in franchise history last week against Atlanta. Deshaun Watson, possibly the second-most exciting quarterback in the league behind KC's Patrick Mahomes, has perhaps the most thrilling receiver in DeAndre Hopkins. No slouches on defense, the Texans have forced a turnover in 18 straight games, the longest active streak in the NFL.

But Mahomes has thrown 202 consecutive passes without an interception. Alex Smith has the franchise record of 312.

Chiefs coach Andy Reid needs one win to reach 200 regular-season victories. He has 211 overall.

Carolina (3-2) vs. Tampa Bay (2-3) at London

An early riser (9:30 a.m. EDT) in their second matchup of the season. The Bucs won in Carolina.

This is the first overseas regular-season match for the Panthers. If British fans were looking forward to seeing Cam Newton, Kyle Allen has been a superb replacement. Allen has won all four career starts, three this season, with seven TDs, no interceptions, making him the first quarterback in the Super Bowl era to win his first four starts with no

INTs. And the Bucs allowed more than 300 yards passing in each of the past four weeks.

Panthers RB Christian McCaffrey's 866 yards from scrimmage are the second most through five games in NFL history to Jim Brown's 988 in 1963. Pretty good company there.

Philadelphia (3-2) at Minnesota (3-2)

Not quite the same as the Eagles' previous trip to Minnesota, when they beat the Patriots for their first Super Bowl title on Feb. 4, 2018.

Main matchup here is the NFL's No. 3 rushing offense, led by No. 2 rusher Dalvin Cook, against the best run defense. Cook trails only McCaffrey.

Last week against the lowly Jets, Philly became the first team in NFL history with 10 sacks and two defensive TDs in a single game.

New Orleans (4-1) at Jacksonville (2-3)

They are not chanting "Drew Who?" in the Big Easy. At least not yet.

But Teddy Bridgewater has stepped in for Drew Brees (thumb surgery) and quarterbacked the Saints to three straight victories. Two were against 2018 playoff teams, the Cowboys and the hated Rams, who,

helped by a major officiating gaffe, beat New Orleans to get to the Super Bowl. He has a passer rating of 100 or higher in two of his past three road starts.

It helps to have the most productive receiver, Michael Thomas, with 45 catches and 543 receiving yards. Jacksonville also is missing its veteran starter, Nick Foles. Rookie Gardner Minshew is one of three QBs in the Super Bowl era with a 100-plus rating and no interceptions through his first four career starts. RB Leonard Fournette seeks his third consecutive 100-yard performance. He had runs of 48, 81 and 69 yards the past three weeks.

Cincinnati (0-5) at Baltimore (3-2)

The only division with a single winning team, and the Ravens came up with a big one in overtime last week at Pittsburgh to grab the AFC North lead.

Lamar Jackson's 11 TD passes rank second in the NFL behind Seattle's Russell Wilson (12), and Baltimore's 961 yards rushing are second most in franchise history after five games.

The Bengals still are looking for a first win under coach Zac Taylor. They're 0-5 for the seventh time since 1990, most in the NFL over that span. This is their worst start since Marvin Lewis' team went 0-8 in 2008.

Atlanta (1-4) at Arizona (1-3-1)

Kliff Kingsbury got his first victory as Cardinals coach in Cincinnati. But Arizona ranks 24th in pass defense, while Atlanta is third in yardage throwing the ball. □

Guentzel's goal sends Penguins past unbeaten Ducks 2-1

By The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Jake Guentzel scored the tie-breaking goal in the third period to lead the Pittsburgh Penguins to a 2-1 victory over the previously unbeaten Anaheim Ducks on Thursday night.

Guentzel finished Sidney Crosby's backhand feed from the slot at 7:24 of the third. Guentzel has five goals in five career games against the Ducks, including his second career hat trick last season.

Crosby also scored a power-play goal, his second of the season. He has multiple points in five of his last 10 games against Anaheim. Matt Murray made 31 saves for the Penguins. He needs one more win to reach 100 in the NHL.

Pittsburgh concluded a season-opening, four-game homestand with a 2-2 record.

Ondrej Kase scored his first of the season for Anaheim, which tried to open a season with four straight wins for the first time in franchise history.

John Gibson, a Pittsburgh native, stopped 26 shots. He allowed more than one goal for the first time this season.

RED WINGS 4, CANADIENS 2
MONTREAL (AP) — Anthony Mantha scored his sixth goal of the season and Detroit snapped a nine-game losing streak against Montreal.

Darren Helm, Tyler Bertuzzi and Luke Glendenning also scored for the Red Wings, who have three wins in four games this season.

Defenseman Danny Dekeyser had two assists and Jonathan Bernier made 33 saves on 35 shots.

Joel Armia and Max Domi scored for the Canadiens, who were playing the second game of a back-to-back following a 5-4 overtime loss in Buffalo. Carey Price stopped 30 of 33 shots.

Detroit had not won in regulation time in Montreal

since 2007.

LIGHTNING 7, MAPLE LEAFS 3

TORONTO (AP) — Nikita Kucherov scored twice and finished with four points, Brayden Point had two goals and an assist in his season debut and Tampa Bay beat Toronto.

Steven Stamkos added a goal and three assists and Ondrej Palat also scored for Tampa Bay.

Anthony Cirelli had three assists and Andrei Vasilevskiy made 25 saves as the Lightning snapped a two-game slide.

Auston Matthews had a goal and an assist, and John Tavares and Andreas Johnsson also scored for Toronto.

Frederik Andersen allowed seven goals on 28 shots before being replaced by Michael Hutchinson seven minutes into the third period. Hutchinson had five saves.

OILERS 4, DEVILS 3, SO.

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Leon Draisaitl scored the only goal in the shootout to give undefeated Edmonton a victory over winless New Jersey.

Draisaitl, who also scored in regulation, connected in the third round of the shootout as the Oilers improved to 4-0-0.

James Neal and Connor McDavid also had Oilers goals. Mikko Koskinen stopped 28 shots.

Kyle Palmieri, Nikita Gusev and Damon Severson scored for New Jersey (0-2-2). Mackenzie Blackwood made 19 saves.

BLUES 6, SENATORS 4

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — David Perron's second goal of the game proved to be the winner as St. Louis beat Ottawa.

Oskar Sundqvist, Jay Bouwmeester, Brayden Schenn also scored for the Blues. Ryan O'Reilly had a goal and three assists and Jake Allen made 25 saves in his season debut.

Vitaly Abramov, Artem Anisimov, Chris Tierney and



Pittsburgh Penguins' Patric Hornqvist (72) cannot get his stick on the puck in front of Anaheim Ducks goaltender John Gibson (36) with Cam Fowler (4) defending during the first period of an NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh, Thursday, Oct. 10, 2019.

Associated Press

Anthony Duclair scored for the Senators (0-3-0), who are off to their worst start after losing three straight games in regulation.

Anders Nilsson stopped 31 shots in his first start of the season for Ottawa.

JETS 5, WILD 2

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Patrik Laine scored twice and added a pair of assists as Winnipeg beat Minnesota.

Laine set up Kyle Connor's third-period goal that broke a 2-2 tie, giving the Finnish shooter the lead in team points with 10 (three goals and seven assists).

Jack Roslovic scored 28 seconds after Laine and then Laine finished it off with an empty-net goal.

Blake Wheeler recorded a goal and one assist and Mark Scheifele contributed a pair of assists.

Connor Hellebuyck made 38 saves for the Jets, who won their home opener after starting the season with a four-game trip.

Ryan Hartman and Brad Hunt scored for the Wild, who opened the season with three straight losses for the first time since the expansion franchise started playing in 2000-01.

Devan Dubnyk stopped 27 of the 31 shots he faced for Minnesota.

PREDATORS 6, CAPITALS 5

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Mattias Ekholm scored with 4:40 remaining to cap a wild third period and lead

Nashville past Washington. Ryan Johansen scored twice and Filip Forsberg, Matt Duchene and Nick Bonino added goals for Nashville, which finished 3-1 on a season-opening, four-game homestand.

Alex Ovechkin scored a pair of power-play goals and Lars Eller, Tom Wilson and T.J. Oshie also scored for Washington. John Carlson had three assists for the Capitals, who lost in regulation for the first time this season.

Pekka Rinne finished with 21 saves. Braden Holtby made 32 saves.

SHARKS 5, BLACKHAWKS 4

CHICAGO (AP) — Patrick Marleau scored two goals in his first game back with San Jose, and the Sharks earned their first win of the season.

Barclay Goodrow snapped a third-period tie and Brent Burns scored his 200th career goal for San Jose, which opened with four consecutive losses. Kevin Labanc also scored, and Dylan Gambrell had two assists.

Andrew Shaw had two goals for Chicago, which hadn't played since its season-opening loss to Philadelphia in Prague last Friday. Dylan Strome had a goal and an assist in the opener of a seven-game homestand. Dominik Kubalik also added a goal.

FLAMES 3, STARS 2, SO.
DALLAS (AP) — Johnny

Gaudreau put a backhand past Dallas goalie Ben Bishop in a shootout and Calgary beat the Stars.

Tyler Seguin was the only one of three Stars who beat Calgary goalie David Rittich in the shootout. It was tied 1-1, with Sean Monahan beating Bishop before Gaudreau won the game on the last attempt in the first round.

Rittich had 34 saves, including the stop of a penalty shot awarded to Alexander Radulov with 21 seconds remaining in overtime.

The Flames got goals in regulation from Elias Lindholm and Noah Hanifin.

Joel L'Esperance and Jamie Benn scored for Dallas. Bishop made 27 saves.

AVALANCHE 4, BRUINS 2

DENVER (AP) — Andre Burakovsky scored the go-ahead goal with 7:06 remaining, Boston had two goals disallowed after video reviews, and unbeaten Colorado handed the Bruins their first loss of the season.

Gabriel Landeskog added an empty-net goal with 1:01 remaining for the Avalanche, who are off to a 3-0 start for just the second time since relocating to Denver from Quebec in 1995. The 2013-14 club opened the season 6-0.

Pierre-Edouard Bellemare and Nathan MacKinnon also had goals for Colorado and Philipp Grubauer made 39 saves. □

Nike closing Oregon Project in wake of Salazar doping ban

By ROB HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

Nike is closing its elite Oregon Project track and field program overseen by Alberto Salazar following his recent four-year doping ban in a move welcomed by the sport's governing body.

But the sportswear giant and Salazar's protégée, Galen Rupp, are backing the disgraced coach's efforts to overturn the ban.

Salazar was found guilty last week by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency of running experiments with supplements and testosterone that were bankrolled and supported by Nike, along with possessing and trafficking testosterone.

The verdict didn't directly implicate runners from the Nike Oregon Project. But the company is partly blaming the scrutiny on the stars of the training center for its decision to shut the program that began in 2001.

The 61-year-old Salazar has consistently denied being involved in doping schemes. Nike is supporting his plan to appeal the ban. In the meantime, Salazar cannot coach and his credential was revoked during the world track and field championships last week. "This situation including uninformed innuendo and unsubstantiated assertions has become an unfair burden for current OP athletes," Nike said in a statement Friday. "That is exactly counter to the purpose of the team. We have therefore made the decision to wind down the Oregon Project to allow the



In this March 16, 2016, file photo Nike CEO Mark Parker speaks during a news conference in New York. Parker has found himself at the center of doping scandal that has brought down renowned track coach Alberto Salazar, who ran an elite training program bankrolled by the world's largest sports apparel company.

Associated Press

athletes to focus on their training and competition needs."

The Oregon Project athletes now seeking a new training center include Donavan Brazier, the first U.S. athlete to win a world 800-meter title last week, and Sifan Hassan, the Ethiopian-born Dutch runner who last week became the only woman to win the 1,500 and 10,000 at the same world championships or Olympics.

"We will help all of our athletes in this transition as they choose the coaching set up that is right for them," Nike said.

A building on Nike's Oregon campus was named after Sebastian Coe, the IAAF president whose track and field governing body is wel-

coming the decision to shut down the tarnished track program.

"In light of USADA's recent decision, closing the program seems the only thing to do as athletes will inevitably vote with their feet and choose not to be associated with a program surrounded with controversy," the IAAF told The Associated Press.

The announcement was the talk of the news conference ahead of the Chicago Marathon on Sunday, where Oregon Project runners Jordan Hasay and Rupp are competing along with Mo Farah, who was coached by Salazar until 2017.

Rupp, a 2012 and 2016 Olympic medalist, worked with Salazar before the

ban. Rupp said he'd support any appeal.

"I haven't any sport-related contact with him, professional contact with him," Rupp said when asked Friday in Chicago about his dealings with Salazar since the verdict. "I am not really going to comment on the report. It's obviously out there."

Farah was irritated to be pressed on whether his achievements had been tainted by association with Salazar, claiming there was an agenda against him.

"I haven't done anything wrong — these allegations are about Alberto Salazar not Mo Farah," said the Briton, who won back-to-back Olympic doubles in the 5,000 and 10,000 meters. "I have no tolerance for any-

one who has crossed the line."

USADA released last week a pair of 100-plus-page decisions by an arbitration panel that delivered the suspensions for both Salazar and Dr. Jeffrey Brown, the endocrinologist who did contract work for NOP and administered the medicine. The documents, combined with earlier reporting by the BBC and ProPublica, portrayed a coach and doctor who used athletes and employees as guinea pigs to test theories on how supplements and medicine in various doses could enhance performance without breaking anti-doping rules by triggering a positive test. The documents also showed they went to great lengths to produce falsified and incomplete medical records that made their master plan hard to detect.

"It is the right thing and now let's hope they accept that mistakes were made and truly commit to clean sport and the health, well-being of athletes," USADA CEO Travis Tygart said.

Nike has already shut down the OP website, which detailed how Salazar and Tom Clarke founded the program in 2001 after bemoaning the state of American distance running. Clarke is currently president of Nike Innovation.

Nike wrote the contracts and paid the athletes in the training program at the company's campus in Beaverton, Oregon.

"Nike has always tried to put the athlete and their needs at the front of all of our decisions," the Nike statement said. □

Olympic gold medalist Conor Dwyer gets 20-month ban

By EDDIE PELLS
AP National Writer

Olympic gold medalist Conor Dwyer has received a 20-month doping ban after an arbitration panel found that he had testosterone pellets inserted into his body. The 30-year-old Dwyer, who won relay gold medals in 2012 and 2016,

tested positive three times between Nov. 15 and Dec. 20 last year. His ban was made effective on Dec. 21, meaning he won't be eligible for next year's Olympics.

The arbitration decision says Dwyer worked with a nutritionist who suggested the pellets, which are inserted into the skin tissue

near the hip. The decision says a doctor treating Dwyer claims to have contacted an official at the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee, who said the treatment was allowable.

But, the report says, neither Dwyer, his doctor nor his nutritionist followed up with the U.S. Anti-Doping

Agency, which makes its rules and list of banned substances public and also has a hotline to respond to questions.

"It's frustrating that Mr. Dwyer did not take advantage of this support, and hopefully, this case will convince others to do so in order to protect fair and healthy competition

for all athletes," USADA CEO Travis Tygart said. The arbitrators gave Dwyer a slightly reduced sentence in part because he argued that he wasn't using the pellets for performance but rather to mitigate "health concerns which were causing him to have a high degree of stress." □

Big Tech is now a big punching bag for politicians

By BARBARA ORTUTAY

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Republicans and Democrats don't agree on health care, immigration or taxing the rich. But one subject draws critics from both parties: Big Tech.

The list of grievances is long and growing by the week. Companies like Google, Facebook and Amazon are too big and powerful. They're bad for privacy, public discourse, democracy and small business. They're spying on us, contributing to economic inequality and hooking us and our children on addictive, useless services.

The companies themselves object to these characterizations, though how loudly they object varies.

Sen. Kamala Harris, a California Democrat, urged Twitter to suspend President Donald Trump's account for violating the service's rules, while Republican Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri is battling what he considers tech companies' bias against conservatives. Hawley has also told Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg that he should sell off WhatsApp and Instagram. The companies are trying to maintain a neutral stance, even if that draws the ire of politicians as divergent as the president and those trying to impeach him. Behind the scenes, though, they are spending millions on lobbying in hopes of warding off breakups or intrusive regulation.

Not that there is any danger of either happening any time soon, especially with an ongoing impeachment probe. Still, talking up Big Tech's problems has proven to be popular political rhetoric.

When it comes to policing content, social media services are "caught between a rock and a hard place," said Andrew Guess, a Princeton University political scientist who studies social media and its effects on political opinion.

Blocking or suspending accounts for hate speech can prompt complaints of political bias or censorship, but a hands-off approach may



In this Oct. 2, 2019 file photo, Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., speaks during a gun safety forum in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

be viewed as a free pass to politicians like Trump.

"Anything they do is going to attract criticism," Guess said. "That, of course, makes them a target."

Beyond discourse and privacy, antitrust concerns have emerged as a major concern for lawmakers and candidates. This wasn't the case in 2016, when grumbling about the outsized power of tech was largely confined to activists and those on the most liberal end of the spectrum.

Leading the pack has been Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a Democratic presidential candidate who in March proposed breaking up big tech companies. She garnered immediate support, even from rivals such as Sen. Ted Cruz, a Texas Re-

publican who retweeted Warren for what he said was the first time. Cruz said "she's right — Big Tech has way too much power to silence Free Speech."

Since then, calling out the tech behemoths and other big corporations has been a pillar of Warren's presidential campaign. Sen. Bernie Sanders, another leading Democratic candidate, has also said breaking up Amazon, Google and Apple is "something we should definitely take a look at."

Still, while there have been congressional hearings, investigations and fines, including a record \$5 billion against Facebook, little has changed for Big Tech.

A Republican-controlled Senate is unlikely to pass

legislation that seems too anti-business. That includes breaking up tech companies seen as too monopolistic. The same likely goes for any privacy law that restricts companies' ability to target ads to their liking. While the two parties agree that Big Tech has problems, they often differ on what those problems are — and how to fix them. You won't find many Democrats complaining about tech's perceived conservative bias, for instance. Nor will you find many conservatives complaining of algorithmic bias against people of color.

Trump has been uneven in his criticisms. Amazon has been a frequent target, though that is due in part to CEO Jeff Bezos's own-

ership of The Washington Post. He's met with Zuckerberg privately, but he's also tweeted that "Facebook was always anti-Trump" and accused it of colluding with the news media against him.

Amid all this, at least in public, the companies have mostly kept a low profile. But there are occasional glimpses of behind-the-scenes activity. Leaked audio from an internal Facebook meeting in July captured Zuckerberg acknowledging that if "someone like" Warren is elected, he expects Facebook to fight back — and prevail — against efforts to break it up in court. But he added: "And does that still suck for us? Yeah."

Amazon, by contrast, briefly tried to debate the candidates on Twitter.

In April, after Warren complained that Amazon and other big tech companies have "too much power," the company responded by pointing the finger at its main rival: "Walmart is much larger; Amazon is less than 4% of U.S. retail."

When Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez said in a TV interview in June that Amazon pays workers "starvation wages," the company tweeted that she "is just wrong."

And Amazon gave former Vice President Joe Biden a corporate tax lesson after he tweeted that it shouldn't be paying a "lower tax rate than firefighters and teachers."

"We pay every penny we owe," Amazon tweeted back. "Congress designed tax laws to encourage companies to reinvest in the American economy. We have."

This was in June. Amazon seems to have backed off since.

Expect the political push-back to continue, from both parties, said Joshua Tucker, co-director of New York University's Social Media and Political Participation Lab.

"It's a bipartisan issue," he said. "But the right and the left are criticizing it for different reasons." □

Stocks surge on optimism about US-China trade talks

By ALEX VEIGA

STAN CHOE

Associated Press

Stocks marched higher on Wall Street Friday afternoon, riding investor optimism that the U.S. and China can make progress in their punishing trade war. The broad rally drove the Dow Jones Industrial Average more than 470 points higher and had the S&P 500 index on track to close out its first weekly gain in four weeks.

Before meeting with Chinese Vice Premier Liu He for trade talks at the White House, President Donald Trump said, "Good things are happening." Investors are hopeful the two sides can reach at least a limited deal on trade and tamp down tensions that have already dragged down manufacturing around the world.

One set of U.S. tariffs is scheduled to rise on Chinese products next week, and another round of tariffs is scheduled to take effect



In this Oct. 2, 2019, file photo specialist Dilip Patel, right, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Associated Press

in December. The worry is that all the uncertainty about global trade may spill over into stronger areas of the economy, such as household spending, and cause a recession.

"The market is looking for

anything here that shows forward progress," said Ben Phillips, chief investment officer at EventShares. "If we get there, that's enough for the market to say, 'OK, we're moving in the right direction and this isn't going

to be a disaster that stops the global expansion.'" Treasury yields rose as investors felt less need for safety and dumped bonds. The yield on the 10-year Treasury, a benchmark for mortgages and many oth-

er kinds of loans, jumped to 1.74% from 1.65% late Thursday, a big move. The jump in yields helped send bank stocks higher on expectations of bigger profits for making loans. JPMorgan Chase rose 2.7%, and Bank of America climbed 2.5%. Technology stocks, which often do lots of business with China, also helped power the indexes higher. Apple climbed 2.8%, and Broadcom added 3.1%.

KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 index was up 1.7%, as of 3 p.m. Eastern time. Earlier it had been up 1.9%. The Dow climbed 474 points, or 1.8%, to 26,971 after earlier being up nearly 500 points. The Nasdaq rose 2%. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks outpaced the broader market with a 2.6% gain.

TAMPING DOWN TRADE TENSIONS: Markets around the world have swung sharply on every morsel of progress or dissonance dribbling out about the U.S.-China trade war. □

Fed approves rules loosening Dodd-Frank bank restrictions

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve is easing restrictions imposed on banks following the 2008 financial crisis, giving a victory to the banking industry and President Donald Trump.

The Fed on Thursday approved a set of rule changes that implement legislation passed by Congress last year to loosen restrictions, particularly for smaller community banks, imposed by the Dodd-Frank Act passed in 2010.

Trump has often criticized Dodd-Frank, which he says has hurt economic growth by making it harder for banks to lend.

The Fed's changes will ease requirements on banks for holding capital and cash and also for the so-called living wills big banks must develop in case they fail.

The Fed approved the capital and liquidity changes and the modifications on living wills by 4-1 votes, with Fed board member Lael Brainard casting the



In this Jan. 30, 2019, file photo Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell speaks at a news conference in Washington.

Associated Press

lone no vote. She said she believes the changes will weaken critical safeguards governing the largest institutions.

The rules changes capped a multi-year effort by the

banking industry to loosen restrictions imposed by the 2010 law. The law was backed by the Obama administration with the aim of preventing a replay of the 2008 financial crisis, the

worst banking crisis since the Great Recession of the 1930s.

Gregg Gelzinis, a policy analyst with the Center for American Progress, said the rules changes are a mis-

take that puts the financial system at risk.

"Reducing the stringency of bank capital requirements, liquidity rules and stress testing makes large bank failures more likely, while watering down living wills requirements magnifies the economic devastation caused by such failures," he said.

The living wills requirement was enacted by the 2010 law to make sure financial institutions have plans for winding down their operations in the event of a failure, so that taxpayers are not left liable as they were in the 2008 crisis.

The rules changes modify the frequency the living wills will have to be updated.

Rob Nichols, president of the American Bankers Association, praised the Fed for the changes, saying they would fulfill the 2018 law aimed at tailoring government regulations to better match each bank's business model. □

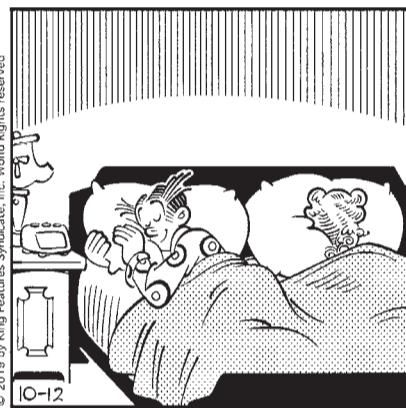
Mutts



6 Chix



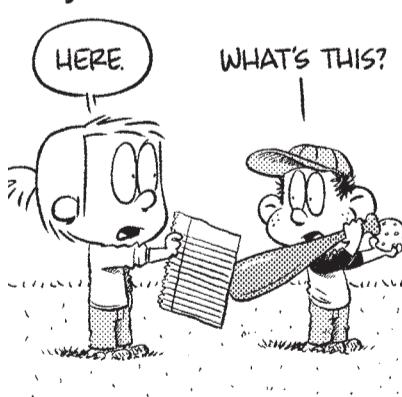
Blondie



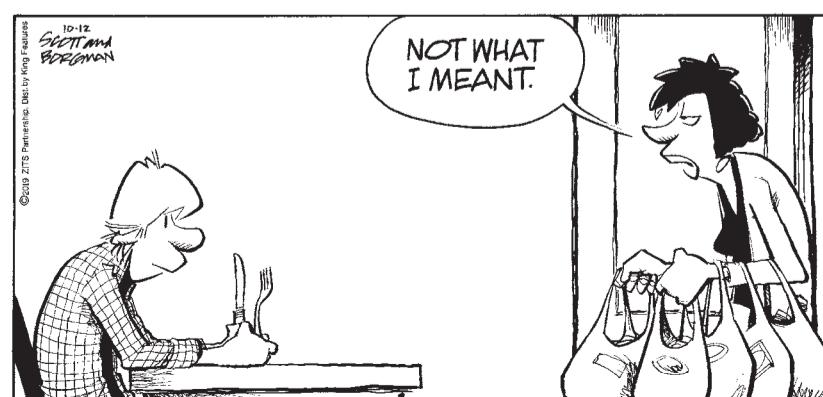
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 7 | | | 4 | 3 |
| 2 | 5 | | 9 | 6 | |
| 6 | | 9 | 8 | 7 | |
| 3 | 4 | | 1 | 9 | |
| | 5 | 3 | | 2 | 7 |
| 2 | 6 | | 3 | 8 | 1 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★

10/12

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

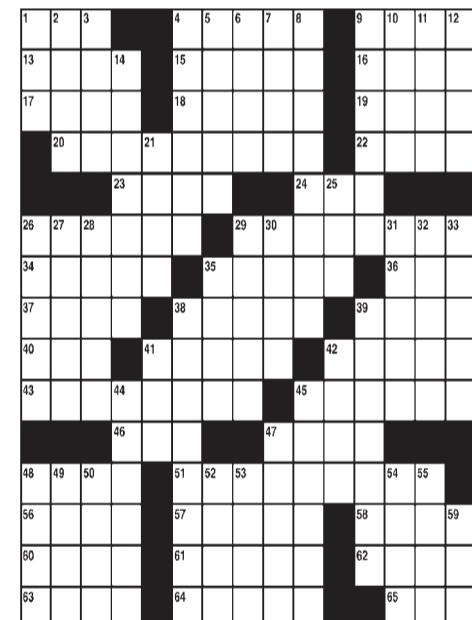
| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| 3 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 5 |
| 2 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 8 |
| 1 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| 8 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| 9 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 6 |
| 7 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 2 |
| 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 1 |
| 6 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 3 |

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1 4 8 9 6 5 3 1 2 7
3 6 1 7 2 8 4 9 5
2 7 5 1 4 9 3 6 8
1 5 6 3 8 4 2 7 9
8 3 7 9 6 2 5 1 4
9 4 2 5 7 1 8 3 6
7 1 4 8 3 6 9 5 2
5 2 3 4 9 7 6 8 1
6 9 8 2 1 5 7 4 3

ACROSS
1 At the present time
4 Garr & Hatcher
9 Grand ___; four-run homer
13 Unfair slant
15 ___ cologne
16 Unsullied
17 ___-ran; loser
18 Steps over a fence
19 Not on time
20 Abbreviated
22 Eur. nation
23 ___-do-well; deadbeat
24 Fleur-de-___
26 Go higher
29 February's birthstone
34 Get underway
35 Uncouth
36 30-day month: abbr.
37 Spring leaps
38 Frolics
39 Cheese with a white rind
40 Cochlea's place
41 Flies alone
42 Military chaplain
43 Perfectionist
45 Cleansed with clear water
46 Actor Holbrook
47 Alpha's follower
48 Last part of a musical score
51 Residents
56 Jai ___
57 Europe's longest river
58 Needs medicine
60 Cincinnati team
61 Brontë or Dickinson
62 'Get lost!'
63 Misplace
64 Lassos
65 Secret agent

DOWN
1 Org. for Pistons & Pacers
2 Wesson products
3 Do the laundry
4 Tried out
31 Linear measures
32 Steeple
33 Covered with pines
35 Nat King or Old King
38 Type of car accident
39 Tropical fruits



Friday's Puzzle Solved

| | | |
|------------|------------|-------|
| SPY | ASSES | TOOT |
| DARE | PHONE | ROME |
| OVEN | PULVERIZED | |
| SEA | DANDY | OPENS |
| RAILS | LOL | |
| BARREL | SAFEST | |
| ADAMS | PRODS | MUD |
| WINS | BLOWS | GAME |
| LOG | GROWS | BATON |
| SECRET | PALTRY | |
| HEW | TABLE | |
| AGREE | CRANE | RED |
| JOURNALIST | LIAR | |
| ANDY | PASTE | ONCE |
| REEL | TWEED | UGH |

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10/12/19

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41 Music from Jamaica
42 Middle East bread
44 Reclining patio chair
45 Compensates
47 Brass instrument
48 Sandburg or Reiner
49 Margarine
50 Family men
52 Singer Perry
53 Cut coupons
54 Facial twitches
55 Word attached to happy or stick
56 Pig's digs

Report: 58% of Europe-only trees face extinction threat

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — An international conservation group is warning that more than half of the European tree species that exist nowhere else in the world are threatened with extinction.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature said in a new report Friday that 58% of Europe's 265 endemic trees face an elevated risk of disappearing from the continent.

More than 150 experts contributed to the report, which the conservancy called the first comprehensive assessment of the extinction threat for all types of trees native to Europe.

The European Red List of Trees classified 37% of Europe's 454 native tree species as "threatened." Of those, 15% are "critically endangered," a step away from extinction, the report said..

The findings come amid heightened concern about environmental issues and extinction risks in Europe and beyond. A U.N. report on biodiversity released in May warned that extinction looms for over 1 million species of plants and animals.

IUCN, a 71-year-old organization known for its "Red List" classification of threatened species, said that "invasive and problematic" species are the top threat to European trees, with urban development and "unsustainable logging" as other factors.

The group's Europe director, Luc Bas, said "human-led activities" were resulting in population declines of important tree species.

Among the recommendations, the report's authors called for the creation of protected areas, improved monitoring and increased research on the impacts of climate change on forests and individual tree species.

The conservancy highlighted *Aesculus hippocastanum*, or the horse chestnut tree, native to southeastern Europe. The polished brown conker inside its spiked fruit "is perhaps more famous than the tree itself" because of its use in children's playground games, the report said.

The species, present in Europe since before the last Ice Age, has been threatened by defoliation because of the leaf miner moth, and a blotch caused by a fungus, as well as by human pressures. It is endangered in Bulgaria and Greece and critically endangered in Albania. □

TODAY **BONDIA**

How to reach us!

Map showing the location of the Today and Bondia offices in downtown Oranjestad. The map includes labels for Weststraat, Schelpstraat, Royal Plaza Mall, L.G. Smith Boulevard, High Rise Hotel, and the Bus Terminal. A magnifying glass highlights the Today and Bondia logo area.

Classifieds



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ARUBA Clean



Marriott Aruba Surf Club

GOLD Season

2B Oceanfront \$14k
2B Oceanside \$8500
GV \$6k OV \$7k
3BEDROOM \$12500

PLATINUM Season

2B Oceanfront \$27k
Oceanside \$16500
Oceanview \$15500
3BEDROOM \$26k
*WK. 51 GV \$39k
*WK 52 OV \$49k
* Weeks 7 and 14-all views

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

GOLD Season

2B Oceanfront \$14k
2B OV \$8000
1 Bed \$4000
1B Oceanfront \$7500

PLATINUM Season

2 Bed OV \$16500
2B Oceanfront \$24k
1B OV \$10k

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San Nicolas

IMSAN 24 Hours
Tel. 524 8833

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Oranjestad:
Trupial Tel. 583 8560
San Nicolas:
San Nicolas Tel. 584 5712

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Police | 100 |
| Oranjestad | 527 3140 |
| Noord | 527 3200 |
| Sta. Cruz | 527 2900 |
| San Nicolas | 584 5000 |
| Police Tipline | 11141 |
| Ambulancia | 911 |
| Fire Dept. | 115 |
| Red Cross | 582 2219 |

TAXI SERVICES

| | |
|------------------|----------|
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| Prof. Taxi | 588 0035 |
| Taxi D.T.S. | 587 2300 |
| Taxi Serv. Aruba | 583 3232 |
| A1 Taxi Serv. | 280 2828 |

TRAVEL INFO

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Aruba Airport | 524 2424 |
| American Airlines | 582 2700 |
| Avianca | 588 0059 |
| Jet Blue | 588 2244 |
| Surinam | 582 7896 |

CRUISES



October 13
Volendam
Freewinds

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Women in Difficulties
Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



In this Oct. 1, 2019 photo made available by NASA, a Northrop Grumman L-1011 Stargazer aircraft takes off from Vandenberg Air Force Base in Calif.

Associated Press

NASA launches satellite to explore where air meets space

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA launched a satellite on Thursday night to explore the mysterious, dynamic region where air meets space.

The satellite — called Icon, short for Ionospheric Connection Explorer — rocketed into orbit following a two-year delay. It was dropped from a plane flying over the Atlantic off the Florida coast.

Five seconds after the satellite's release, the attached Pegasus rocket ignited, sending Icon on its way. The ionosphere is the charged part of the upper atmosphere extending several hundred miles (kilometers) up. It's in constant flux as space weather bombards it from above and Earth weather from below, sometimes disrupting radio communications. "This protected layer, it's the top of our atmosphere. It's our frontier with space," said NASA's heliophysics division director, Nicola Fox. Fox said there's too much going on in this region to

be caused by just the sun. Hurricanes, tornadoes and other extreme weather conditions on Earth are also adding energy, she noted. The more scientists know, the better spacecraft and astronauts can be protected in orbit through improved forecasting.

The refrigerator-size Icon satellite will study the air-glow formed from gases in the ionosphere and also measure the charged environment right around the 360-mile-high (580-kilometer-high) spacecraft.

"It's a remarkable physics laboratory," said principal scientist Thomas Immel of the University of California, Berkeley, which is overseeing the two-year mission. He added: "Icon goes where the action is."

A NASA satellite launched last year, Gold, is also studying the upper atmosphere, but from much higher up. More missions are planned in coming years to study the ionosphere, including from the International Space Station. □



Super scoopers make drops on the Saddleridge fire in Placerita Canyon near Newhall, Calif., Friday, Oct. 11, 2019.

Associated Press

With warming, get used to blackouts to prevent wildfires

By SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ex-

pect more preventative power blackouts in California as the climate gets hotter and drier and the wildfire season gets nastier and longer, scientists say.

The Golden State already is fire-prone with lots of dry plants and woodlands — but add high winds that can knock down power lines or cause them to spark, then watch out, wildfire experts say.

The darker outlook hits close to home for Stanford University climate scientist Chris Field, who like so many others had his electricity cut off Thursday by Pacific Gas & Electric Co.

"At this point we don't have a better option for reducing risk than shutting electricity off," Field said. "It's better than having a whole community burn down."

Mike Flannigan a professor of wildland fire at the Uni-

versity of Alberta in Canada, said "the new reality" is that there will be more fires with drier and hotter weather from man-made global warming. So he said power shutdowns like those by California utilities are more likely to happen to try to avoid catastrophic fires with losses of lives and

property like those that plunged PG&E into bankruptcy.

"Power shutdowns, that's pretty dramatic. It's very effective. It's overkill," Flannigan said. "It's a trend."

Flannigan said there is some build-up of certain trees and plants as fuel, but that's usually not a big problem. "It's just fire weather is getting more severe," he said. "Fuels are drier, which means more fuel to burn. The more fuel to burn means more intense" fires.

The area burned in California wildfires has increased fivefold from 1972 to 2018 and that's been "driven by drying of fuels promoted by human-induced warming," according to a June study in the scientific journal *Earth's Future*.

Summer "warm season" days in California have increased in temperature by 2.5 degrees (1.4 degrees Celsius) in the past century, the study said.

"Mostly we see a strong summertime effect," study co-author Jennifer Balch, a fire scientist at the University of Colorado, said in an email. "But warmer temperatures in the fall also dry out fuels and make big, wind-driven wildfires more likely." "Power outages are just a band-aid on the problem

of human ignitions," Balch said. "People provide the ignitions for 84% of our nation's wildfires. And it's not just downed power lines that cause sparks. Campfires, burning debris, driving off the side of the road, electrical equipment, and fireworks are all ways that we start fires."

Fire season is getting longer in California, stretching into October when there are now not only hot, dry fuels, but strong winds from the mountains that knock power lines down and trigger the fires, said University of Utah fire science expert Philip Dennison.

The key, said Field of Stanford, is the time between the start of the high winds and the start of winter rainstorms. If it takes too long, the fire potential worsens.

These types of winds — called Santa Ana in Southern California but more properly called downsloping because they also occur in Northern California — historically have caused power lines to arc and start fires, said Robyn Heffernan, the fire weather science meteorologist for the National Weather Service.

The winds that come down mountains warm and dry out and the speed increases, Heffernan said. □

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Moyes' novel, set in depression, is remarkably contemporary

By GENINE BABAKIAN

"The Giver of Stars: a Novel" (Pamela Dorman Books), by Jojo Moyes

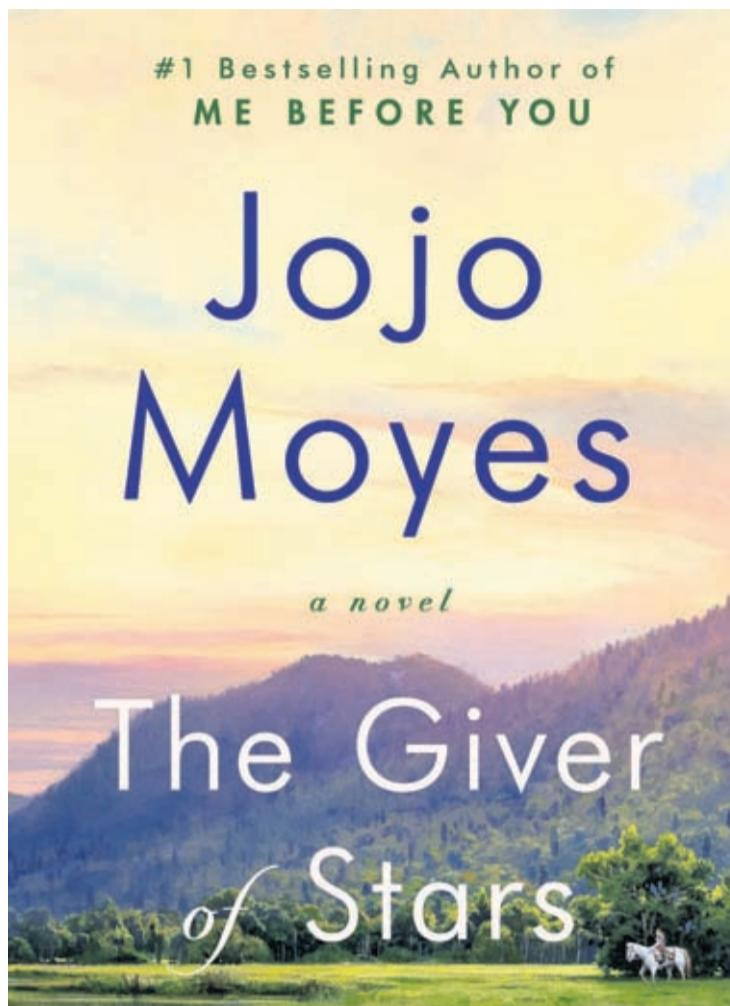
At the outset of Jojo Moyes' "The Giver of Stars," Alice Van Cleve has gone from the frying pan into the fire. An outspoken young woman who doesn't quite fit in with polite English society, Alice jumps at the chance to leave her native England when a handsome American proposes. Imagining a different sort of life altogether, she ends up with Bennett Van Cleve and his overbearing father in a rural town in Depression-era Kentucky. She's friendless, miserable and trapped. Until, that is, the Pack Horse Library initiative comes to her town, offering her an escape from the lonely monotony of her days. Saddling up to bring books to remote families hungry for reading material, Alice and a cluster of local women join the initiative.

According to an article in Smithsonian magazine —

which inspired Moyes to set her historical novel in eastern Kentucky — the Pack Horse Librarians were the bookmobiles of the Great Depression. Overcoming danger and discomfort, they traversed seasons, mountains and miles to bring books to homes and schools that would otherwise go without.

While her novel is set in the midst of the Great Depression, Moyes crafts a tale that's remarkably contemporary. One timely theme that runs throughout the book is the importance of facts. The librarians represent knowledge — knowledge they wish to share not just to open people to new worlds and ideas but also to arm them with the facts they need to counter the disinformation campaigns promoted by the wealthy and powerful.

"Knowledge is so important, don't you think? We all say at the library, without facts we really do have nothing," Alice says. And when



This cover image released by Pamela Dorman Books shows "The Giver of Stars," a novel by Jojo Moyes.

Associated Press

her father-in-law attacks Alice for reading a "filthy book," he smugly informs her that the book has been banned. Her response? "Yes, and I know that a federal judge overturned that same ban. I know just as much as you do, Mr. Van Cleve. I read the facts." Environmental degradation is another recurring theme. And while Moyes never labels her character Margery O'Hare as an environmentalist, her love and respect for the mountains that she calls home fuels her efforts to protect it from the degradation inflicted by the coal mines. "A certain kind of man looked at God's own land," Margery thinks as she discovers newly desecrated forest, "and instead of beauty and wonder, all he saw was dollar signs." The fiercely independent Margery, "who would be owned by nobody, and told by nobody," is the ring-leader of the librarians and in many ways is Alice's savior. □

Road tripping Thailand: Weekend getaways to beat the crowds

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand's southern beaches lure travelers with their turquoise water and dramatic limestone cliffs, but there's more to explore in the Southeast Asian country that's one of the world's most popular destinations. For a Thai road less traveled, try one of these getaways outside Bangkok, far from the overly Instagrammed backpacker hotspots or the party scene of Phuket or Pattaya.

BAN KRUT FOR THE BEACH BUM

In laid-back Ban Krut, travelers will find one of the cleanest and quietest stretches of white sand within driving distance of the capital, Bangkok.

This sleepy seaside community, known mostly by locals, is a five-hour drive or six-hour train trip down the Gulf of Thailand.

Don't miss the magnificent Wat Tang Sai, a massive, fairytale castle-like Buddhist temple perched atop



This Nov. 17, 2018 photo shows the royal pavilion drenched in sunlight inside the Phraya Nakhon Cave located in Thailand's Khao Sam Roi Yot National Park.

Associated Press

Thong Chai Mountain.

RIVER KWAI FOR THE NATURE LOVER

Most visitors come for the

beaches, but the rivers and parks in Thailand's Kanchanaburi province have much to offer the off-the-beaten-track road tripper.

Scenic trails and waterfalls abound in Sai Yok and Erawan national parks. Just two hours from Bangkok is the famed bridge over

River Kwai featured in the French novel-turned-1957 Academy Award-winning film.

Stay on the river at one of Kanchanaburi's many floating hotels, or floatels, where you can kayak to your front door.

PHRAYA NAKHON CAVE FOR THE HOLIDAY HIKER

Lush hiking trails, wetlands and mangrove forests make Khao Sam Roi Yot National Park a weekend adventure worthy of topping your Thailand to-do list.

The park's crown jewel is the extraordinary Phraya Nakhon Cave. Come early to catch the picturesque chamber flooded with morning sunshine spotlighting the royal pavilion that sits inside.

Outdoorsy travelers can camp in a park bungalow or opt for more luxe accommodations in the nearby touristy town of Hua Hin, three hours by car or four by train from Bangkok. □



This image released by Netflix shows Timothée Chalamet, center, in a scene from "The King."

Associated Press

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GEMINI MAN WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-THU 4:50 | 7:30
FRI 4:50 | 7:30 | 10:10
SAT 2:10 | 4:50 | 7:30 | 10:10
SUN 2:10 | 4:50 | 7:30

3D VERSION
MON-FRI 6:10 | 8:50
SAT-SUN 3:30 | 6:10 | 8:50

CXC 3D VERSION
2D VERSION MON-SUN 12:55 | 6:05 | FRI-SAT 3:30 | 8:40 | 11:05

PBP (VIP) MON-SUN 1:40 | 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25

PG-13

ROGUE WARFARE WILL YUN LEE | JERMAINE LOVE

MON-FRI 4:20 | 6:45 | 9:10
SAT-SUN 1:55 | 4:20 | 6:45 | 9:10

JOAQUIN PHOENIX | ROBERT DE NIRO

JOKER WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

(VIP) MON-FRI 6:05 | 8:50
SAT-SUN 3:20 | 6:05 | 8:50

MON-FRI 4:45 | 7:30
FRI 4:45 | 7:30 | 10:15
SAT 2:00 | 4:45 | 7:30 | 10:15
SUN 2:00 | 4:45 | 7:30

PBP MON-THU & SUN 3:10 | 5:50 | 8:30
FRI-SAT 3:10 | 5:50 | 8:30 | 11:10

PBP (VIP) MON-SUN 1:20 | 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20

10 MINUTES GONE BRUCE WILLIS | MICHAEL CHIKLIS

MON-THU & SUN 9:35
FRI-SAT 9:35 | 11:40

CHLOE BENNET | ALBERT TSAI

ABOMINABLE WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-FRI 4:00 | 6:15
SAT-SUN 1:50 | 4:00 | 6:15

PBP MON-SUN 12:55 | 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25

PG

CONSTANCE WU | JENNIFER LOPEZ

HUSTLERS

MON-THU & SUN 2:00 | 4:25 | 6:50 | 9:15
FRI-SAT 2:00 | 4:25 | 6:50 | 9:15 | 11:40

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In 'The King,' Chalamet inherits the throne

By JAKE COYLE

Associated Press

A Shakespeare adaptation without all that Shakespeare stuff, David Michôd's "The King" goes once more unto the breach only to come up short.

"The King," written by Michôd and Joel Edgerton, condenses Shakespeare's Henriad — "Henry IV, Parts I & II" and "Henry V" — into a much more simplified tale of the wayward prince Hal (Timothée Chalamet) turned monarch. It's generally difficult enough to adapt a single play of Shakespeare's, but taking three in one swing — even with the ammunition of a bowl-cutted Chalamet and an extremely louche Robert Pattinson as the French dauphin — borders on folly.

"The King," too, has dispensed with Shakespeare's language and significantly tweaked one of the playwright's greatest creations, Falstaff (played by Edgerton), turning the unruly paragon of self-indulgence (whom Harold Bloom has called "life itself") into merely a melancholy military man. People can get prickly when you make drastic changes to Shakespeare. But if you're going to come at "The King," you better come correct.

The plays (the Henry-verse, if you will) stand as among the greatest portraits of power ever penned. Moving from Hal's slow-building ambition to his transformation into King Henry V, they are about the cruel, cunning and perhaps necessary metamorphosis of a

man into a king.

"The King" rapidly follows this political conversion, beginning with Hal's drinking days with Falstaff (depicted only a slow-motion montage) and, after the death of his father King Henry IV (Ben Mendelsohn), leading up to the pivotal Battle of Agincourt. But Michôd and Edgerton have some twists on the tale and some different things to say about the formation of rulers and the conquest of war.

This Hal's youthful dalliances aren't just him delaying his inevitable ascendance. Here he is firmly pacifistic, uninterested in adopting the squabbles and rivalries of his bitter, ailing father or the macho-machinations of his contemporaries. He's disgusted by the relentless drumbeat of war. In an early scene, he tries to put a stop to a battle by earnestly appealing to their foe. In an attempt to stave off a bloody battle, he challenges their leader to a winner-take-all duel.

And, oh, how young Chalamet looks in these scenes. He seems too precious for mud and appears to weigh less than his sword. With a full suit of armor on, he looks only scantly larger than a tin can. That might be incongruous to history or, at least, to the traditional view of Hal, but it makes "The King" more interesting.

It's a movie best seen less as a historical epic and more as a metaphor for a rising young movie star coming up in a culture he aims to subvert. Chalamet did as much at the movie's red-carpet premiere (another red-colored battle-

field), donning a glittering, sequined hoodie. This is a new kind of leading man, it's clear enough, and he again proves himself more than capable of assuming that mantle in "The King." Michôd also seems more in command of the material here than he has since his breakthrough, the brooding crime saga "Animal Kingdom." Like that film, "The King," too, turns on a dark axis of family. And like Michôd's previous film, the Afghanistan War satire "War Machine," with Brad Pitt as a thinly veiled version of Gen. Stanley McChrystal, "The King" is ultimately about the dubious drive for war and the duplicitous nature of those who monger for it.

Shakespeare, of course, did that, too, in a more complicated balance. "Henry V" has its own nationalistic jingoism ("Upon St. Crispin's Day") but it was always countered, usually by Falstaff. Edgerton, here more rotund than he's been before, plays the knight principally as a reluctant warrior. Falstaff makes his (off-stage) exit in "Henry V," but "The King" keeps him along as Henry V's trusted military adviser. Michôd's most clever revision is in how artfully and skillfully he renders the film's final battle at Agincourt, only to undercut it with a more disquieting concluding note.

Shakespeare, robbed of its poetry and its harmony, isn't so much. But it will do. At least we have Pattinson's campy French prince, who appears like a demonic Parisian rock star lounging backstage. □

Late opera star Jessye Norman's US hometown honors her life

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Renowned opera star Jessye Norman is being honored in her hometown with four days of celebrations and memorials.

Norman, who died Sept. 30 at 74, had hoped to live long enough to attend the renaming of the street outside the Jessye Norman

School of the Arts, which she opened in 2003 to provide free fine arts education to disadvantaged children.

The ceremony on the newly renamed Jessye Norman Boulevard honors one of the few black opera singers to gain worldwide stardom. A block away, another

street honors another Augusta music giant — James Brown — whose daughter Deanne Brown Thomas attended a second day of public viewing Friday at an Augusta church.

Norman's funeral is scheduled Saturday and a benefit concert for the school follows Sunday. □

Aaron Paul: 'El Camino' answers 'What happened to Jesse?'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Aaron Paul's character in the popular series "Breaking Bad" was supposed to get killed off at the end of the first season. But producers had a change of heart after witnessing the strong chemistry between his Jesse Pinkman character and Bryan Cranston's Walter White in a pilot.

The decision to keep the story revolved around the duo for five seasons panned out for the series, which won several Golden Globe and Emmy awards. Paul won three supporting actor Emmys for his breakout portrayal of the overly emotional, loud-mouth and meth-taking Pinkman. Now, Paul returns as Pinkman in the Netflix film "El Camino: A Breaking Bad Movie," which premieres Friday on the streaming service. The movie has cameos from some of the show's best characters.

"The dynamic between Walter and Jesse changed the whole dynamic of the



This Oct. 6, 2019 photo shows Aaron Paul posing at The Four Seasons Hotel to promote his Netflix film "El Camino: A Breaking Bad Movie" in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

series and my life," said Paul, who has gone on to star in the TV series "The Path" as well as the films "Need for Speed" and "Central Intel-

ligence."

"This was a role of a lifetime," Paul said. "I thought I said goodbye to this guy years ago. So, it's sort of

nice to revisit in this state of mind and continue this journey with him. Then reconnecting with everyone from the show. It was like a

family reunion."

"Breaking Bad" concluded its five-year run on AMC in 2013. The show primarily focused on White, a high school chemistry teacher struggling to financially support his family, including a son who has cerebral palsy and has been diagnosed with terminal cancer.

In desperation, White uses an old RV as a place to build a lucrative meth empire with the help of Pinkman, a former student, before their drug operation turns violent. The series ended with White dying from a gunshot wound after using a remote-controlled machine gun to kill an Aryan Brotherhood gang and free Pinkman, who had been held captive for six months.

"El Camino" picks up after a scar-faced, dusty Pinkman flees the bloody scene in a stolen El Camino vehicle. The story focuses on Pinkman as he tries to escape his former drug life to start anew while on the run from the police. □

Imagine this: Natalie Merchant honored with Lennon award

NEW YORK (AP) — At this stage of her life, Natalie Merchant is more proud of getting an honor named for John Lennon because of what it says about her activism than her music.

The singer is the sixth recipient of the John Lennon Real Love Award, and will headline a tribute concert to the former Beatle in New York on December 6.

"It's gratifying," Merchant said in an interview. "To have any connection to John Lennon, especially with activism, is quite prestigious and meaningful to me because he was one of the main artists who inspired me when I was growing up to think about the wider world and my impact on it."

Merchant volunteers three times a week for a Head Start program near where she lives in Hudson Valley, helping disadvantaged children. She often performs free concerts for children and, at the height of her fame three decades



This Dec. 8, 2018 file photo shows Natalie Merchant performing at Cyndi Lauper's 8th Annual "Home for the Holidays" benefit concert in New York.

Associated Press

ago, volunteered at a homeless program in Harlem, where most of the people thought she was a student from nearby Co-

lumbia University.

She got to know Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono, when they worked on the anti-fracking movement in up-

state New York.

Merchant, 55, records and performs sporadically now and, aside from guiding her teenage daughter through

high school and into college, said her activism takes up most of her time.

"These projects, for a good reason, they suck your life blood," she said. "I began to see these projects as much more important than making another Natalie Merchant record."

Joan Osborne, Rachael Yamagata and Sam Amidon are among the other artists who will perform at the annual Lennon tribute, now in its 39th year. The show will take place at the Peter Jay Sharp Theatre at Symphony Space.

Merchant, who calls "Imagine" one of the most powerful pieces of music ever recorded, is already rehearsing some Lennon songs with her accompanist for the tribute.

"The thing that we want to do is not faithfully perform the songs as John recorded them, to give stylistic alterations," she said. "It will be fun. We don't want to feel like we're a John Lennon karaoke group." □



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